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King meets Syrian Orthodox patriarch

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday received Patriarch Mar Ignatius of Antakia and the President of the Higher Council of the Syrian Orthodox Church, Patriarch Ignatius congratulated the King on his 58th birthday and wished him continued good health and happiness and the Jordanian people further progress and prosperity. The King also received Public Security Department Director General Major General Abdul Rahman Al Adwan, who presented the King a token gift from the PSD personnel on the occasion of his birthday.

Juppe arrives here for talks tomorrow

AMMAN (J.T.) — French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe is due here for a short working visit Thursday during which he is expected to be received by His Majesty King Hussein, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan as well as Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali and other senior officials. The talks will focus on the Middle East peace process and Franco-Jordanian relations as well as France's role within the European Community (EC) in supporting the recent breakthroughs in the two-year-old Arab-Israeli peace negotiations. Mr. Juppe, making his first visit to the Middle East after assuming office as foreign minister, will fly to Damascus Wednesday for talks with Syrian leaders before arriving in Amman.

Automobile exhibition opens in Amman

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Prince Faisal Tuesday stood in for His Majesty King Hussein in opening the 1994 International Automobile Exhibition, which is being held at the Amman International Fair grounds. Taking part in the exhibition are 39 Jordanian companies. The exhibition runs through Nov. 25.

Dudayev arrives en route to Sudan

AMMAN (Petra) — President of the Chechen Republic Javhar Mousa Dudayev arrived here Tuesday en route to Sudan. He was received upon arrival at Amman airport by Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali and senior government officials. Dr. Majali exchanged views with President Dudayev on means of developing bilateral relations in the different fields.

IAF names Akalleh for speakership

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Islamic Action Front (IAF) announced Tuesday that it was naming Deputy Abdullah Akalleh (Tafilah) as its candidate for Lower House speaker. Dr. Akalleh has been Muslim Brotherhood deputy in the previous Parliament and is deputy secretary general of the IAF party.

Jordan beats Thai, but fails to advance

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan's national basketball team Tuesday beat Thailand 73-63 in a first round match of the 17th Asian Basketball Championship in Jakarta, Indonesia. The Kingdom's team, which had lost to China and Saudi Arabia earlier in the tournament, did not qualify for the second round and will now play for 9th-18th positions. Jordan's only other win was 69-57 over Pakistan.

JD 70 million budget for Amman

AMMAN (Petra) — Greater Amman Municipality Council Tuesday approved a budget for 1994. In a press conference following the council's meeting, Amman Mayor Maradoun Al Abbad said the budget includes a JD 44 million allocation for new projects.

Jericho area is big hurdle in negotiations

CAIRO (Agencies) — Palestinian chief negotiator Nabil Shaath said Tuesday the extent of the future autonomous Jericho area in the West Bank was proving one of the "most difficult" problems at secret autonomy talks with Israel here.

Eight Israeli officials and six Palestinians were also trying to resolve disagreements over Israeli plans to protect Jewish settlers once the army begins withdrawing from the occupied Gaza Strip and Jericho on Dec. 13.

Speaking on Egypt's Sawt Al Arab radio, Dr. Shaath said there were "differences over the extent and demarcation of the Jericho area," during the talks Monday. "This is one of the most difficult problems," he added.

Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) signed a deal Sept. 13 to grant limited autonomy to the Palestinians in Jericho and the Gaza Strip.

Israel has said the Jericho area is restricted to the current 25 square kilometres established by the Israeli military administration.

But the Palestinians maintain that the Jericho area covers the Jericho district — about 345 square kilometres.

The talks, which resumed in Cairo on Monday, would continue for the next two days, Dr. Shaath said.

They were moved to Cairo

from the Egyptian Red Sea resort of Taba to avoid the media spotlight.

However, the negotiations may switch back later to Taba, where they began on Oct. 13, a source close to the talks said.

The co-chairmen of four sub-committees set up at Taba were taking part in the discussions, officials said.

Egypt's state-owned Middle East News Agency reported Tuesday that the two sides agreed to extend the talks until the end of this week — Thursday. It said they also agreed to bring in more negotiators to include heads of four committees formed at the opening of precursor talks in Taba.

Those talks were suspended on Nov. 2 after PLO delegation leaders protested Israel's withdrawal plan, which they said amounted to redeployment, not withdrawal, of forces.

Egyptian mediation efforts helped bring the two parties back to the bargaining table, but in smaller delegations to concentrate only the two main issues of withdrawal and Israeli security.

Dr. Shaath told reporters Sunday that the earlier 40-member delegations to concentrate on details were not needed while the two sides remained at odds over major issues like withdrawal.

But Dr. Shaath said: "We came in two smaller groups to hammer out the obstacles to

ward withdrawal and security. Whenever we feel it's necessary to increase the numbers, we will do so."

The declaration of principles for a final agreement established four committees to agree on implementing details.

They deal with Israeli troop withdrawals, distribution of Palestinian police forces in post-occupation Gaza and Jericho, transfer of administrative authority and so-called confidence-building measures.

The last is mainly to handle the release of more than 9,000 Palestinians jailed in Israel.

Without quoting sources, the Middle East News Agency said heads of the four committees will take part in Wednesday's talks.

The agency said the additional Israelis were expected to arrive Tuesday night.

Yasooq Setfi, a spokesman for the Israeli embassy, refused to discuss the subject.

Israel Radio quoted a Palestinian source as saying negotiations were making progress, wrapping up details of the withdrawal plan for Gaza and Jericho. In suspending the talks in Taba, the PLO complained Israel was using the Jewish settlers as an excuse to redeploy their troops, not withdraw them.

Haim Ramon, health minister in Israeli prime minister Yitzhak Rabin's cabinet, told

(Continued on page 5)

King receives Morillon

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday received French defence ministry advisor General Philippe Morillon, a former commander of the U.N. force in former Yugoslavia (Petra photo).

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Self-rule economic talks open

PARIS (Agencies) — Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) began their first formal economic talks in Paris Tuesday in a race to build a viable Palestinian administration virtually from scratch before Israel withdraws from the Gaza Strip and the town of Jericho.

Israeli Finance Minister Avraham Shohat and PLO economics chief Ahmad Kureia were upbeat in brief introductory speeches at the start of the meeting in Paris' Kleber conference centre.

"The economic issue is one of the main issues in the peace process, and I believe that cooperation between us on a basis of parity and equality will create and motivate this process and make a real change on the ground (to meet) the aspirations of our people," Mr. Kureia said.

Mr. Shohat spoke of a historic day and said: "Peace cannot exist without good relations between Israelis and Palestinians... the delegations shall find a way to solve the problems."

"This (process) shall have a big influence on the general situation in the Middle East."

The talks, held under the Sept. 13 Israel-PLO peace agreement, are to set a political framework for economic cooperation between Israel and a new self-governing Palestinian authority which will initially rule the Gaza Strip and Jericho.

Arab diplomatic sources said the meeting would create specialist committees for detailed talks on specific issues.

At stake are questions like the currency and banking system in the territories, trade terms, taxation, investment programmes and joint ventures.

The session was initially set for two days but Mr. Shohat and Mr. Kureia held unscheduled informal talks on Monday evening, where Arab diplomatic sources said much ground was covered.

The talks are running parallel to negotiations in Egypt on Israeli military withdrawal from the territories.

The Israeli delegation included diplomats, economists and General Danny Rothchild, outgoing senior administrator of the occupied territories.

Israel would respect the "special" relationship between Palestinians and Jordan, Mr. Shohat said. "Questions such as the Jordanian currency will be examined," Israel is holding separate talks with Jordan on these issues.

A Palestinian delegation member emphasised Jordan-Palestine inter-dependence in the monetary and fiscal fields and in trade and free movement of persons.

Another Palestinian official, Samir Houleleh, who is also a Palestinian delegation member at the multilateral Mideast peace talks, said the committee would hold another

(Continued on page 3)

Democracy is irreversible reality in Jordan — King

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein has said that democracy has become an irreversible reality in Jordan, and Jordanians have learnt lessons from the experiences of other structures in the region.

The King, in an interview with the Guardian newspaper of London, also said that democracy has become a source of stability and continuity of strength and confidence against external dangers.

"You should not call it a 'democratic experiment,'" the King was quoted as telling interviewer David Hirst, "because it is a commitment in which I firmly believe."

Democracy, he said, had become a necessity for Jordan and the region, especially in the light of the "major decisions" which would have to be taken in the Arab

Israeli peacemaking.

The peacemaking needed the "democratic endorsement" which only a properly elected parliament could furnish. It was not just a matter for "the leadership," he said.

There had been a debate about whether the elections were desirable in the light of the PLO-Israeli agreement. But it was not so much he who initiated this debate as some sections of Jordanian society, he said.

There were real worries about the "ambiguity surrounding some members (i.e. Palestinians) of our one family," he said.

He implied that despite appearances to the contrary, he had really been determined to go ahead with the elections come what may. To have postponed them would have amounted to a "disturbing setback" for democratisation, the King said.

He said that the temporary law introduced shortly before the elections — providing for a one-man one-vote system — was not as arbitrary as it might have seemed.

He said he had always "felt that there was something wrong" with the old system. He had long been urging the outgoing parliament to address the matter. But it hadn't taken much notice of him. That was why he acted so late, he said.

At all events democracy had now become a source of "stability and continuity," of strength and confidence against any external dangers, he said. "People keep asking me how I view the Iranian threat, for example, or, for many years, the Israeli

(Continued on page 10)

The elections and make-up of Parliament — the numbers

By Sa'eda Kilani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The 80 deputies in Jordan's 12th Parliament received only 16 per cent of eligible votes (1.9 million), based on figures released by the Ministry of Interior last week. The figures reveal that the 80 deputies obtained around 40 per cent (316,000) of the votes cast in the elections while slightly more than 60 per cent of the votes (488,000) went to candidates who failed to make it to Parliament. The Islamic Action Front deputies, 18, including two who ran on a Muslim Brotherhood ticket, collected 97,280 votes, almost a third of the total number of votes gained by the House's 80 deputies. The figures also show that 135 candidates out of 534 runners (originally 539) got less than 500 votes each.

The number of registered voters was 1,501,229 out of the 1,947,689 eligible voters; 1,203,329 collected their voting cards, and only 821,000 turned out in the polls — the actual number of votes counted amounted only to 804,000 which means that only 41 per cent of eligible voters actually voted.

According to analysts at the Al Urdun Al Jadid Research Centre, the results show wider Jordanian participation in comparison with Palestinian turnout. The centre based its estimates on figures of those registered, those who collected their cards and/or those who voted in districts which are densely populated by Jordanians of Palestinian origin.

According to predictions made by the centre, Jordanian participation reached 70 per cent while Palestinian

participation reached only 30 per cent.

The IAF, which actually won 18 seats (16 + 2 candidates who ran independently), reaped the highest number of votes in comparison with other political groupings. IAF members constitute 22.5 per cent of the Parliament's 80 members.

The 16 IAF deputies who ran on the IAF tickets are: Abdul Aziz Jaber (Amman First District); Abdul Mun'em Abu Zant and Hamzeh Mansour (Amman Second District); Ibrahim Kilani (Amman Third District); Hammam Sa'ed (Amman Fifth District); Ahmad Kofahi and Abdul Rahim Akour (Irbid); Suleiman Khalaf Raimoni (Jerash); Mohammad Aweideh (Balqa); Ahmad Kasasbeh (Karak); Badr Riati (Maan); Bassam Emoush, Moham-

(Continued on page 10)

Nabulsi reports accord on monetary issues, but cautions Palestinians

By Samir Shafiq
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) Governor Mohammad Saeed Nabulsi told a large group of businessmen Monday night that if the Palestinians decide at any time to set up their own central bank and issue their own currency, the move would be damaging to both Jordan and the new Palestinian entity.

"After a short period of romance, having had their own currency and central bank, reality will prove to the Palestinians that having had

thought of the scheme had been a mistake," Dr. Nabulsi said adding that such an action would be damaging to Jordan and the Palestinian entity in trade and investment spheres.

He said it would be unwise for the Palestinians to break away from the Jordanian dinar when many countries in the world were moving to form economic blocs and seeking currency unification.

According to documents available to him so far, Dr. Nabulsi said, the anticipated

monetary and banking role of Jordan in its occupied territories during the transitory period will be:

"The continued use of the dinar as the legal tender and the return of the Jordanian banking system to function in the occupied territories according to prevailing Jordanian legislation."

Dr. Nabulsi explained that the Sept. 13 Israeli-Palestinian declaration of principles did not grant the Palestinians self-rule authority any legal power in the monetary and banking field because this area would touch on the issue of sovereignty.

But, the agreement left the door open for negotiations between the two sides on other authorities of which one of them could be the monetary and banking authority, the governor said.

He added that a proposed Jordanian-Palestinian economic agreement and the result of negotiations between Jordan and Israel on reopening the branches of Jordanian banks give the same result as to the role of Jordan in the monetary and banking field in the occupied territories.

However, the CBJ governor noted that Jordan's financial role in the occupied

territories has not yet been officially documented and signed between the Palestinian and Israeli sides.

Moreover, the official framework for Jordanian's role covers only the interim period of Palestinian self-rule and does not go beyond the two-year period.

The CBJ governor said an agreement in principle had been reached with the Palestinians concerning a number of basic elements for economic cooperation between the two sides. However, this agreement had not yet been signed and the governor urged the Palestinian

leadership to speed up its ratification of the agreement to draw up the necessary detailed protocols and arrangements to cover all issues of interest to both sides.

Dr. Nabulsi highlighted the following

Palestinians criticise Arafat over economic team

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat is facing mounting criticism in the occupied territories for choosing his political supporters over economists to handle the management of international aid.

The 14-member Palestinian Economic Development and Reconstruction Authority (PEDRA), created on Nov. 4 by Mr. Arafat, "includes too few economic experts and too many politicians," said Samir Abdullah, a Palestinian negotiator at multilateral talks with Israel.

Dr. Abdullah, who is also an economics professor at the Al Najah University of the West Bank town of Nablus, called for the formation of "a panel composed exclusively of experts which would impose its views on the economic council."

Yusef Al Sayegh, a PLO economist, resigned last week from the council in protest at what he called "the politicians' dominance," the East Jerusalem-based Palestinian daily newspaper Al Quds reported.

The joint PLO-Israel economic

commission was holding its first meeting Tuesday and Wednesday in Paris on the transfer of economic responsibilities to the Palestinians under the autonomy deal signed Sept. 13.

"The politicians should have refused to take part in the council because they are very well aware that they lack competence in economic affairs," said Abdul Samara, an economist from the West Bank opposed to the PLO-Israel deal.

Dr. Samara stressed that Mr. Arafat's "erroneous" choice of PEDRA members was "the logical consequence of bad financial management of the PLO which has been going on for years."

Mr. Arafat has been blamed for much of the mismanagement at the PLO, which was plunged into financial crisis when Gulf states cut funding because of his support for Iraq after the invasion of Kuwait three years ago.

Dr. Samara said donors such as the United States, E.C. and Japan, who offered more than \$2 billion in aid to the Palesti-

nians over five years, also bear part of the responsibility.

"The international community and the World Bank should have never agreed to deal with Palestinians with such an unprofessional approach," he said.

In an apparent veiled criticism of Mr. Arafat, the spokeswoman of the Palestinian delegation to the bilateral talks with Israel, Hanan Ashrawi, said Sunday she supported "more democracy within the Palestinian bodies" and suggested that "people with proper qualifications" be nominated.

The vice-president of the World Bank, Caio Koch-Weser, said last week he was disappointed that PEDRA's creation "has been dominated by political considerations." He hinted that aid to the Palestinians might be delayed.

A World Bank delegation concluded recently a three-week visit to the occupied territories to finalise a technical assistance programme aimed in particular at helping the Palestinians make use of \$50 million in emergency aid.

'Sudan one of world's worst failures'

WASHINGTON (AP) — In a report on the world's 10 worst humanitarian failures, the medical aid group Doctors Without Borders singles out Sudan as "a ruthless dictatorship that violates every human right in the book."

The group's book-length annual report, released Tuesday, also criticises international action in Angola, Bosnia, Somalia and other countries.

It says they often are characterised by economic sanctions that hurt only the poor, peacekeeping operations that turn partisan and more concern with elections than human survival.

The report, "Life, Death and Aid," was released by the U.S. branch of the private group founded by French doctors two decades ago.

Sudan topped the group's report last year on populations that were in the most danger.

The report on humanitarian failures also lists Angola, Afghanistan, Tajikistan, the Caucasus region of the former Soviet Union, Liberia, El Salvador, Cambodia, former Yugoslavia and Somalia.

"The people of Sudan are arguably the most at risk as the country has one of the worst records of killings, organised starvation and deportations of civilians in recent history," the report said.

It said brutal fighting between the northern, Muslim-led government and southern rebels, who are Christian and animist, has killed thousands of people and displaced tens of thousands.

"Despite recent international pressure, relief efforts have long been hampered by the international community's diplomatic respect for a government with one of the worst human rights records on the African continent," it said.

Doctors without borders, which says it is the world's largest independent emergency medical aid group, has posted 5,000 volunteer doctors, nurses and other professionals in 80 countries.

Among other countries, the report says: — Peace efforts in Angola have led to a worse war, because the United Nations focused on holding elections without disarming the warring sides. "The U.N. must bear the responsibility for one of today's most savage conflicts."

— In the Caucasus, fighting between Armenia and Azerbaijan over Nagorno-Karabakh has intensified, but the international community is unwilling to "get bogged down in a territorial dispute."

— European governments are using humanitarian aid as a "cosmetic device" to justify staying out of the crisis until the fighting produces "a new manageable Bosnia, officially carved up along ethnic lines."

— In Somalia, military concerns have completely overshadowed any effort to gain a political settlement and hampered humanitarian efforts. Doctors Without Borders pulled out the last of its workers last week because it did not want them working under military protection.

— In Afghanistan, the international community abandoned all efforts after the war finally engulfed Kabul.

— The reemergence of authoritarian rule in Tajikistan after the Soviet breakup resulted in 50,000 deaths, with conditions largely ignored in the West.

Lebanese police burn seized drugs in public

BEIRUT (AP) — Police on Monday publicly burned more than 1,800 kilograms of drugs in the latest phase of a nationwide crackdown on narcotics abuse to attract foreign investment to help post-war reconstruction.

Nearly 1,500 kilograms of hash, 291 kilograms of pure cocaine and 38 kilograms of heroin were set ablaze at the Beirut port. The operation was watched by French, Australian, Dutch and Scandinavian narcotics agents.

Brigadier General Salim Sleem, head of Lebanon's narcotics police, said the drugs were seized in a spate of busts over the last two months. He called it "the latest link in a six-month crackdown on breeders, smugglers and narcotics dealers."

Gen. Sleem said 420 drug smugglers and traders were arrested in the new sweep, bringing to 858 arrests made since the anti-narcotics campaign was launched by Prime Minister Rafik Hariri's government last May.

Gen. Sleem did not report the market value of the burned drugs.

The drive aims at obliterating a multimillion-dollar trade in narcotics, cigarettes and other household and electrical appliances. The Syrian army lent considerable support to Lebanese troops in the campaign.

Syria, which has 40,000 troops stationed in Lebanon under an Arab League mandate, has been under U.S. pressure to curb the narcotic trade.

Vast hash and marijuana fields across Lebanon's eastern border with Syria have been abolished, reflecting Lebanon's determination to restore

law and order after the lawlessness that flourished during the 1975-1990 civil war.

Sixteen illegal ports, used by smugglers since the civil war's outbreak, have earlier been blown up in northern Lebanon and several makeshift bridges spanning contraband trails on both sides of the 400-kilometre Lebanese-Syrian border were dynamited.

Hashish production has been pegged at 700-800 tonnes, with an estimated five tonnes of heroin.

Western officials said last year that the narcotics trade in the Bekaa Valley, east of Lebanon, was worth around \$500 million a year. But other estimates ranged upward from \$1.5 billion a year.

The narcotics trade mushroomed during the war, with militias using the profits to buy weapons and power.

The drugs were mainly smuggled to Western Europe, North America, Australia, Israel and Egypt. Drug addiction in Lebanon itself increased drastically during the war.

Its progressing destruction of the narcotics trade naturally had an adverse impact on Lebanon's already shattered economy but it marked a significant breakthrough for Mr. Hariri's government in its drive to stamp out corruption and crime.

The government hopes the campaign would reassure foreign nations about Lebanon's recovery from civil war chaos to encourage them to extend financial aid for reconstruction, which needs up to \$10 billion by U.N. estimates.

Lebanon's drugs have long been a main income of various extremist groups around the Middle East.

Britain releases pictures of 'Iraq-destroyed villages'

LONDON (R) — Britain released pictures on Monday it said showed the Iraqi army had destroyed villages in the marshes of southern Iraq in defiance of the United Nations.

Officials said it was the first time the government had made public such evidence and it would be used to argue that U.N. sanctions against Iraq should stay in force.

"You have evidence of Iraqi actions against villages in the marshes that is quite clearly in contravention of 688," a Foreign Office official said, referring to the U.N. resolution which bans Baghdad from using force against the Iraqi people.

It was difficult for the untrained eye to make much of the grainy black-and-white film, taken by the royal air force over southern Iraq in late September.

But Defence Ministry analysts of the television and infrared imagery said it showed four derelict or destroyed villages, with what were probably scorched marks visible around damaged buildings in two of the settlements.

It said the villages had probably been burnt, not shelled, and Iraqi ground forces were the likely culprits.

"It is unclear whether the destruction of the observed settlements is related to marsh drainage construction projects, Iraqi counter-insurgency operations or harassment of Shiite Arabs by the authorities in Baghdad," the Defence Ministry said.

Baghdad says the military operations it conducts in the marshes are directed against dissident insurgents.

The film was released alongside new claims from campaigners against alleged persecution of marsh Arabs that Iraq

used chemical weapons near Basrah in September in its efforts to drive the isolated Shiites out of the vast wetlands.

Iraq has described reports of military campaigns against the marsh Arabs as "pure fabrication."

Conservative British Member of Parliament Emma Nicholson showed filmed interviews with witnesses of the alleged attacks, conducted last week by Iranian doctors treating refugees who have fled Iraq.

One man, Abud Ali Hashim, said a soldier had told him there were many victims in the army itself when the wind changed course and blew the chemicals back on the attackers.

"I could see the plants changing colour and wilting. They told me that the dead bodies had blue skin and blisters," according to a transcript of his remarks given to reporters by Ms. Nicholson's fellow campaigners.

Another, Saham Mawwat, also described how the wind had changed course. "I saw birds falling down, the grass changed colour and wilted," he said.

A team of U.N. inspectors has gone to the Iranian capital, Tehran, to investigate claims that Iraq used phosgene, a choking gas of World War I vintage, against the Arabs on Sept. 26.

If such allegations — denied by Iraq — were confirmed, it would constitute a breach of U.N. Resolution 687, which ordered Baghdad to destroy weapons of mass destruction.

British officials said they had no convincing evidence of the use of chemical weapons and said the air reconnaissance film had been taken elsewhere in the marshes.

NEWS IN BRIEF

S. Arabia gives \$13m in aid to Bosnia

JEDDAH (AFP) — The Saudi cabinet Monday approved a gift of \$13 million in food and medicine for the mainly Muslim authorities in Bosnia-Herzegovina, the official Saudi Press Agency (SPA) reported. King Fahd, who directed that the funds be made available, also ordered Saudi hospitals, both civilian and military, to take more Bosnian casualties from the fighting among Muslims, Serbs and Croats in the former Yugoslav republic. He appealed to Saudi residents to contribute to a Saudi Bosnian aid fund, chaired by Riyadh Governor Prince Sulman Ben Abdul Aziz. Since the start of the conflict in April 1992, Saudi Arabia has provided Bosnian Muslims with nearly \$150 million, along with several tonnes of food and medical supplies.

U.N. urges Tehran to end political assassinations

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) — Iran must stop its intelligence agents from targeting political opponents living outside the country, the United Nations Human Rights Commission said in a report. "There are sufficient grounds for urging the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to adopt prompt and effective measures to stop its intelligence agents from threatening or attempting to kill members of the Iranian opposition living abroad," the report said Monday. The U.N. commission also urged Iran to cooperate with investigations into threats or attacks on Iranian natives living outside the country. Among the attacks, the report documents the Aug. 28 assassination of Behran Azadfar, an Iranian Azeri leader living in Ankara, as well as the abduction of Mohammad Ghaderi, another Iranian leader living in Turkey. Perhaps the best known victim was former Iranian Prime Minister Shapour Bakhtiari, killed in a Paris suburb in 1991. An investigation found that about 50 people in several countries had participated in preparing and carrying out Bakhtiari's assassination, the U.N. report said. The report also noted deteriorating conditions in Iran's prisons, where about 20,000 political prisoners are being held.

Kuwait's ruler to visit Iran soon

KUWAIT (R) — A Kuwaiti diplomat said the emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, would soon visit Iran, the official Kuwait News Agency reported. "The visit of his highness the emir to Iran aims at... spreading the spirit of understanding and trust between the two countries to serve the region," Kuwaiti Charge d'Affaires in Tehran Fahd Al Dhafiri was quoted as saying. Mr. Dhafiri said the emir had accepted an invitation to visit from President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani and promised to fulfil it soon, a KUNA despatch from Tehran said late Monday. The agency said Mr. Dhafiri had conveyed a message from Sheikh Jaber to the Iranian leader. Mr. Dhafiri said the date of the visit would be determined through diplomatic channels in the near future. The visit would be Sheikh Jaber's first trip to Iran since becoming emir in 1977.

Turkey wants \$170m in U.S. naval arms

WASHINGTON (R) — Turkey wants to buy torpedoes, missiles and other U.S. naval arms and ammunition for four warships at a cost of about \$170 million, the Defence Department said Monday. Included in the purchase would be 32 Harpoon anti-ship missiles, 64 MK-46 torpedoes, 40 anti-submarine rockets, 3,000 rounds of five-inch ammunition, 40,000 rounds of 20mm cartridges and other equipment related to the lease of four Knox class frigates to Turkey from the U.S. Navy. The Pentagon said the principal U.S. contractors involved in the package would be McDonnell Douglas Corp and Alliant Techsystems.

Kuwait clears Iraqi of 'collaboration'

KUWAIT (R) — A Kuwaiti court overturned the death sentence of an Iraqi convicted of collaborating with Iraq during the 1990-91 occupation, a court official said on Tuesday. "The court found contradictions in the testimonies of the witnesses in that case and therefore acquitted the defendant," an official of the court of cassation told Reuters without elaboration. The cassation court upheld a guilty verdict and a six-month jail term imposed on the man, Ghaleb Mohammad Turki, for illegal entry into Kuwait. Newspapers said the state security court imposed the sentences in May. Death sentences in Kuwait automatically are reviewed by the court of cassation.

King to shake up Morocco's bureaucracy

RABAT (R) — King Hassan of Morocco Monday ordered that top civil servants be transferred every four years to shake up the kingdom's ponderous bureaucracy and keep it on its toes. "The duty of each government is to discover weaknesses in the administration and eradicate them," he said in a letter to Prime Minister Mohammed Karim Lamrani published by the official news agency MAP. A new government of technocrats led by Mr. Lamrani was appointed by the monarch on Thursday with the task of holding down the state deficit, controlling inflation and providing jobs. King Hassan told the new cabinet that it "must avoid routine and embark on new measures." Foreign businessmen often encounter administrative obstacles in Morocco, something which may discourage foreign investment, Western diplomats say. "One of the causes of these weaknesses... is keeping senior civil servants in the same post and in the same place for too long. A special relationship is developed between him and his subordinates, leading to routine work harmful to public interest," the king said.

Cyprus to open embassy in Israel

TEL AVIV (R) — Cyprus will open an embassy in Israel for the first time, the Israeli Foreign Ministry said on Monday. It said the island's ambassador would present his credentials to President Ezer Weizman on Nov. 24. Israel has maintained an embassy in Nicosia since 1960. Cypriot Foreign Minister Alocos Michaelides was due in Israel Tuesday evening for a three-day official visit. It will be the first visit to the Jewish state by a Cypriot foreign minister.

U.S. offers F-15E jets to Israel, officials say

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The United States has offered 20 modified F-15E attack jets to Israel for about \$1.8 billion but Israel has not said whether it will buy the warplanes, U.S. defence officials said Monday.

The officials, who asked not to be identified, said Israel was apparently still deciding whether to buy a new version of the sophisticated F-15E ground attack jet made by McDonnell Douglas Corp., additional F-16 jets made by Lockheed Corp. or the F/A-18, also made by McDonnell Douglas.

If Israel buys the F-15E, considered the world's most advanced ground attack jet, it would be the first foreign country allowed to do so by the United States.

But such a sale, even if it is made over several years, would eat up a large amount of the \$1.8 billion that the United States gives to Israel each year for arms purchases.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin met for over three hours with Defence Secretary Les Aspin Monday. He later told reporters that cost was a problem but he hoped a decision was near on the warplane issue.

The meeting followed a promise by President Bill Clinton Friday that Washington would help improve Israeli security — including providing more warplanes, anti-missile defences and computer technology — to boost Israeli confidence en route to Middle East peace.

Mr. Rabin declined to say whether Israel would buy the F-15E which normally costs about \$50 million a plane. U.S. defence sources said the cost of the 20-plane package would be pushed up to \$1.8 billion by the addition of air-to-air missiles and other equipment, spare engines, logistics and training.

"There are some technical things that need to be worked out and we are working on those," Mr. Aspin told reporters.

"We have to study the problems of cost, the cash flow..." Mr. Rabin said.

"I believe we had a good meeting... discussions will continue this week, and I hope by the end of this week, or



Les Aspin



Yitzhak Rabin

later, decisions will be made," he added.

The two officials declined to specify the exact type of aircraft involved in the discussions.

The United States has sold F-15s to Saudi Arabia, but models that lack some of the sophisticated radar and other systems that would be included in the Israeli package, Pentagon officials said.

The F-15 Eagle is America's premier fighter-bomber, capable of handling opponents in the air and targets on the ground, at night and in adverse weather.

One of the officials said some "fairly minor" changes would be made, such as in its software packages, to maintain American superiority. It would be identified as the F-15I, one of the officials said.

The Israelis have 51 older model F-15s, but the newest long-range version would enable Israel to reach Iran and Iraq.

No formal decision has been made, one of the officials stressed.

"We just gave them the cost and pricing schedule for 20. They asked what they could get for \$1.8 billion... they are the ones who have to decide what to buy," the official said.

"It's a question of affordability, what kind of mix they can afford" over a certain time frame, the second official added.

If the Israeli request is approved by the Clinton admini-

nistration, Congress would be notified and would have several weeks to pass legislation to block such a sale.

The State Department, meanwhile, confirmed that Secretary of State Warren Christopher will visit the Middle East soon, probably next month, to offer any help that the United States can give in moving the peace process forward.

One of the keys to the Middle East peace process, Mr. Clinton and Mr. Rabin agreed after a meeting Friday, is any future peace agreement between Israel and Syria.

Syria has a powerful air force made up of hundreds of Soviet-built warplanes, including advanced MiG-29 fighter jets.

In Damascus, Syrian officials said that Mr. Clinton had assured Syria the United States backs a comprehensive Middle East peace and that Mr. Christopher would visit the region next month.

A message from Mr. Clinton to Syrian President Hafez Al Assad was delivered to Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa by Christopher Ross, the American ambassador, during a meeting in Damascus, according to the officials.

The last round of peace talks involving Israel, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and the Palestinians was held in Washington early in September.

Syria has threatened to boycott the next round if no progress is made.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

7:30 Only
18:00 Sports N.B.A.
19:15 News in French
19:15 Le Journal De L'Histoire
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
21:00 Head of the Class
21:10 Documentary "Growing Up"
21:30 News in English
22:00 Film "Contract For Murder"

PRAYER TIMES

06:41 Fajr
06:01 (Sunrise) Dhuha
12:20 Dhuhur
16:15 'Asr
16:40 Maghrib
18:00 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedeth. Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Carmelite Church Tel. 622566
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541.

Anglican Church Tel. 630851. Tel. 628543.

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.

Armenian International Church Tel. 625225.

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328.

German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 641195.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932.

Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691.

Min./Max. temp.

Amman 1 / 16

Aqaba 9 / 23

Jericho 0 / 17

Jordan Valley 7 / 22

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 13, Aqaba 21, Humidity readings: Amman 41 per cent, Aqaba 40 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Youssef Al Faqih 756988
Dr. Fakih Tayeh 885880
Dr. Abdul Wabab Awad 786384
Dr. Basim Qudus 648833
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdous pharmacy 778336
Al Asama pharmacy 637025
Nairokh pharmacy 623672
Al Salami pharmacy 630730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shmeisani pharmacy 637660
Nairokh pharmacy 623672
Najla pharmacy 847632

IRBID:

Dr. Ali Shuaibi Za'bi 246140
Al Quds pharmacy (—)

ZARQA:

Dr. Ghassan Al Faqih 906130
Khalifah pharmacy 958417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Public Security Department 63721
Hotel Complaints 603800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Int. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hamam Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalifah Maternity, J. Amn 642816
Akheh Maternity, J. Amn 642412
Jabal Amman Maternity 642662
Mathar, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeisani 664171/4
Shmeisani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Mawazir Hospital 836140
The Islamic, Abadi 661727/7
Al-Ahli, Abadi 664164
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 777101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Amman 775111/2
Army Hospital 816111/5
Queen Alia Hospital 6024090
Amal Hospital 674155

ZARQA:

Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)83322
Zarqa National Hospital (09)90250
Im Sim Hospital (09)86733
Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)90900

IRBID:

Prince Basma Hospital (02)75555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)72275
Im Al Nafas Hospital (02)37700

AQABA:

Prince Haya Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
08:00 Aqaba (RJ)



His Majesty King Hussein Munday evening receives U.S. senator David Boren (Petra photo)

Visiting U.S. senator praises Jordan's help

AMMAN (J.T.) — U.S. Senator David Boren Tuesday concluded a brief visit to Amman and praised the Jordanian authorities for facilitating his trip to Baghdad where he secured the release of American oil businessman Kenneth Beatty who spent 205 days in Iraqi jail. Senator Boren, in a departure statement, said Mr. Beatty had been well-treated in Iraq during his detention.

He said during his brief visit here he had an audience with His Majesty King Hussein Monday evening and discussed the Middle East peace process.

Praising the democratic march in Jordan, Senator Boren said it has set a good example to be copied by other countries in the region.

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein ordered his release in response to a request from the

U.S. senator and other prominent Americans.

Mr. Beatty, who is in his 50s, had been suffering from heart problems, reports said.

He was quoted by the Jordan News agency, Petra, as saying that he received excellent treatment by the Iraqis while he was in jail and he was provided with all his needs including medical care.

Petra quoted Senator Boren as saying that his talks with the Iraqi authorities were of a humanitarian nature, adding that the U.S. government had nothing to do with his mission.

He said his three-day visit to Iraq was at the invitation of the Iraqi ambassador to the United Nations. His meeting in Baghdad, he said, with Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz, was useful and fruitful.

Crown Prince to set YMCA cornerstone

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Wednesday will lay the cornerstone of a new building to serve as a social services centre for the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) in Jordan.

The project is being carried out at Yafoudh, opposite the Amman National Park on the Queen Alia International Airport Highway.

Government ministers, deputies and prominent individuals including members of the diplomatic missions have

been invited to attend the ceremony to take place at noon.

Functioning in Jordan since 1961, the YMCA has pursued efforts to meet the needs of the needy communities within the country and to concentrate on self-help projects through training and development of individuals.

Much of the YMCA work has been focused on benefiting the Palestinian refugees and has included training more than 500 youth community leaders.



REVIEWING SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Tuesday received Mrs. Morillon, wife of Lieutenant General Philippe Morillon of the French army and former commander of U.N. forces in Bosnia, at Queen Alia Fund for Social Development (QAF). During her visit, Mrs. Morillon was given a presentation about the projects and activities of QAF as well as the activities of the Jordanian National Committee for Women. Following the presentation, Mrs. Morillon discussed Queen Alia Fund's role in community and economic development and training with members of QAF's board of trustees and staff. Mrs. Morillon, who was accompanied by Mrs. Claude Marie, wife of the French military attaché in Amman, showed great interest in social development in Jordan, particularly the role of women in development.

New controls to be placed on radio, T.V. advertising

AMMAN (Petra) — Radio and television advertisements will be subject to specific professional controls and regulations, according to a source for Jordan Radio and Television Corporation.

The new controls are part of the Ministry of Information plans to develop a national information strategy for the years 1994.

They have been agreed upon by Jordanian intellectuals, information specialists and experts on habits and traditions prevailing in the Jordanian society, the source said.

The new controls and regulations which cancel other regulations or controls in force, provide that advertisements be true, accurate and in line with the religious and moral values of the Jordanian society.

The advertisements should observe the general taste in Jordan and should not harm people's feelings or dignity, nor should they seek to undermine any other products or the image of other advertisers.

They stipulate that advertisements with people appearing therein should not be aired until the approval of the people concerned is obtained.

The statement said soldiers could use "reasonable force" with officers' permission. Palestinians said soldiers on

50 officers of proposed Palestinian police force begin ICRC training course on humanitarian law

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A batch of 50 officers of the proposed Palestinian police force expected to be deployed in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip under the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) autonomy accord has started a training course at the International Committee of the Red Cross in Amman on humanitarian law.

PLO officials said the three-day training course, which started Monday, comes as part of a pledge made by the PLO leadership to respect human rights and civil rights while enforcing the law in the occupied territories.

The batch of 50 is part of the larger police force, estimated to be around 20,000,

and the trainees are expected to be coached on "specific human rights aspects of police work such as arrests, detention and the use of force," an ICRC press release said.

The officers, to be followed by another batch of 50, are expected to become instructors themselves to train others in the police force on the humanitarian task of their work, it said.

PLO officials said Chairman Yasser Arafat had been contacted by various international relief agencies and humanitarian organisations as well as human rights watchdogs with appeals that every aspect of humanitarian law be followed and respected in the autonomous area proposed under the Israel-PLO accord.

"In principle, Arafat has

agreed to the request and has signed agreements with some of the organisations while other agreements would be endorsed soon," said a senior PLO official.

According to the PLO official, one of the agreements expected to be formalised soon is a PLO endorsement of a human rights charter drawn up by Amnesty International, the London-based human rights organisation.

Senior officials from Amnesty as well as Middle East Watch and several other organisations dealing with human rights abuse in the region met with the PLO chairman shortly after the Israel-PLO accord was announced.

"Our concern is to ensure that the new Palestinian entity will be an exception in a region where human rights

are by and large ignored in the midst of conflicts and political upheavals," said an Amnesty activist.

"We are happy to see that the PLO leadership is living up to its commitments as evident in the Red Cross training for the police force," added the activist.

The ICRC press release said similar courses were also being offered in Egypt, another centre where members of the Palestinian police force are undergoing training in routine police work such as investigations, forensic medicine and use of modern equipment related to maintaining law and order.

"Thanks to the agreement on the Palestinian, Jordanian and Egyptian authorities, the ICRC hopes to contribute with this course to the respect of humanitarian principles in

the future autonomous territories of Gaza and Jencho," the all-Swiss agency said.

"It is convinced that the respect of the human being will, as always, be conducive to peace in the region."

The PLO is seeking a 30,000-strong police force to replace Israeli security forces in the West Bank and Gaza Strip to maintain law and order, but Israel is suggesting that their number be limited to one for every 100 Palestinian inhabitants of the occupied territories; this would mean between 20,000 and 21,000 policemen based on a total Palestinian population of between two million and 2.1 million.

Most of the police force is drawn from the units of the Palestine Liberation Army (PLA). In addition, the force will also include former mem-

bers of a Palestinian force working under the control of the Israeli occupation who resigned shortly after the Palestinian uprising began in 1987.

Up to 3,000 PLO soldiers stationed in Jordan are expected to have been trained in Jordanian police facilities before the end of this year. Others are being trained in Egypt and Yemen, the PLO official said.

In addition, the PLO has accepted 3,000 applicants from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Earlier batches of Palestinians from the occupied territories were deployed in Jericho and parts of Gaza last month, mainly as a token of Palestinian control. Most of them are involved in directing traffic and maintaining order at demonstrations.



Examples of some of the traditional architecture of Salt (Staff photo by Aynsley Floyd)

Experts aim to conserve traditional architecture

AMMAN (J.T.) — A five-day symposium on the conservation of architectural heritage in Jordan and the Arab World will open at the University of Jordan Saturday.

Held under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor, the symposium is organised by the Department of Architecture, Faculty of Engineering and Technology, in cooperation with the Aga Khan Trust for Culture and the Aga Khan Unit for Islamic Studies.

Delegates from 11 Arab and foreign countries including Jordan will review 63 research papers depicting a variety of case studies.

The organisers said that the delegates will discuss projects aimed at the conservation of traditional architecture.

Jordanian papers will cover traditional architecture of Salt, Irbid and Taybeh, they noted. Kamel Mahadin, head of the organisers said that the 75 committee said that an architectural exhibition displaying aspects of the Nabatean city of Petra will be held during the conference.

The exhibition will also display designs by University of Jordan students as well as proposals for restructuring the old Aqaba Railway line.

According to Dr. Mahadin, the participants to the symposium will be representing Turkey, India, the United Kingdom, the United States, Germany, Pakistan, Indonesia, Libya, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates as well as Jordan.

Iran invites Jordan to organise industrial products fair in Tehran

Trade officials review areas of potential exchange

AMMAN (Petra) — Iran has invited Jordan to organise an industrial fair in Tehran in order to promote the sale of Jordanian products in Iranian markets.

The invitation came from Mahdi Mufidi, Iranian deputy minister of heavy industries, at a meeting with Ministry of Industry and Trade Secretary General Marwan Awad Tuesday.

Discussing the second Iranian industrial fair which will open in Amman Thursday, Mr. Mufidi said he hoped that the fair will contribute towards further bolstering bilateral trade.

Mr. Mufidi said that the fair will orient the Jordanian public on the advanced level of Iranian industrial products.

Mr. Awad told the Iranian official that Jordan was interested in launching joint investment projects with Iran and promoting trade links.

The current trade exchanges are still below the aspired level, but more efforts can be made to improve the situation said Mr. Awad.

He said that Jordan was also interested in benefiting from Iranian expertise in joint ventures, noting that the Kingdom

lacks investments in such projects as the production of agricultural tractors and the exploitation of the Dead Sea minerals.

In discussing the development of trade between Iran and Jordan, Mr. Awad said Jordan was interested in revising the joint economic committee which last met in 1992 and in upgrading bilateral trade protocols to pave the way for industrial product exchange.

Referring to an Iranian set of proposals on joint ventures and trade links, Mr. Awad said that it was accepted in principle by Jordan, but it required deeper scrutiny before it would be signed by the ministers of industry in the two countries in the near future.

Present at the talks were Khalid Abu Hassan, president of the Amman Chamber of Industry, and Haidar Murad, deputy chairman of the Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Trade.

The two business association officials proposed that the committee discuss Iranian-Jordanian joint production of spare parts for machinery, building and agricultural materials, and equipment, food stuffs, textiles, garments and

petrochemical products.

According to Ministry of Industry and Trade sources, Jordan's exports to Iran in the first eight months of 1993 totalled JD 8.5 million against JD 1 million worth of Iranian product, imported by Jordan in the same period.

The ministry said Jordan's exports to Iran included fertilisers, paints, shirts, and its imports from Iran included pistachios, melons, seeds and car tyres.

After the talks with Mr. Awad, the Iranian official and his accompanying delegation visited the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC) and met acting Director General Ismael Al-Jallad to discuss cooperation in the phosphate-based fertiliser industry.

Dr. Jallad told the visitors about JPMC's capabilities in developing the Iranian fertiliser industry.

He also discussed with Mr. Mufidi his country's needs of phosphate-based fertilisers produced in Jordan.

Dr. Jallad noted that Iran's annual imports of 600,000 tonnes of phosphate and 500,000 tonnes of fertilisers come from Jordan which in turn imports Iranian raw materials used in

the fertiliser industry.

In 1991, the JPMC sold Iran 230,000 tonnes of phosphate-based fertilisers, but this year the amount was expected to rise to 300,000 tonnes, according to Dr. Jallad.

For his part, the Iranian official raised the prospect of helping Jordan sell fertilisers and phosphate to Afghanistan and the Islamic republics of the former Soviet Union, against Jordan purchases of Iranian-made trucks and equipment used in mining the phosphate, and promoting trade exchanges between the two countries.

Mr. Mufidi later met with the chairman of the Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Trade, Mohammad Asfour, and his assistants, and discussed trade and economic cooperation.

He said that his country was genuinely oriented towards promoting economic and trade ties with Jordan and was interested in organising plans for such endeavours and investments in industrial projects.

Mr. Mufidi also said that Iran would be willing to import Jordanian medicines by barter trade, in exchange for Iranian commodities.

WHAT'S GOING ON EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition of lithographs by a number of artists at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of coins at the Spanish Cultural Centre.
- ★ Art exhibition by Iraqi artist Fahmi Al Qaysi at the Alia Art Gallery.
- ★ Art exhibition by artist Ibrahim Al Nashashibi at Baladna Art Gallery (Gardens Street).
- ★ Art exhibition by Iraqi artist Rakan Dabboush at Orfali Art Gallery (Tel. 8269332).
- ★ Art exhibition by a number of artists at the Student Affairs Deanship Building at the University of Jordan.
- ★ The Palestinian embroidery exhibit at the Royal Cultural Centre (daily 10:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m.).
- ★ Exhibition of recent paintings by artist Ammar Khamash at Darat Al Fnuu of the Ahlul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Lweibdeh. Also showing, the permanent exhibition (Saturday-Thursday 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.).

LECTURES

- ★ Lecture entitled "Parliamentary Elections and Human Rights" by Dr. Mouna Shtaiwi at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation at 5:00 p.m.

SPORTS ROUND-UP

- ★ A one-hour programme featuring a condensation of the most popular games of the week with play-by-play announcement at the American Centre at 5:00 p.m.

Specialists point out problems in industry in Jordan, Gaza

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Jordanian working paper submitted to the second day of an expert group meeting on automation and microprocessor controls, held at the University of Jordan, pointed out several problems and challenges facing the introduction of industrial automation.

The paper, prepared by Yousef Al Assaf, assistant professor at the Industrial Engineering Department of the University of Jordan, said that a large sector of those in charge of industries either do not bother to adopt changes because their products are sold locally utilising present equipment, or are reluctant and afraid to adopt change.

Dr. Assaf said that training of staff on the present equipment or equipment to be acquired was seldom appropriate. Training, he said, can provide an opportunity for creative modification and development.

According to Dr. Assaf, Jordanian industry has no confidence in the capabilities or expertise of university faculty members and engineers to provide solutions to their problems.

He added that Jordanian industry tends to accumulate costly expenses in this arena because it relies on foreign expertise to solve industrial problems.

Addressing the sessions, Dr. Assaf said the proposed national or regional centre for industrial automation was necessary to increase the awareness of benefiting from such automation.

A case study submitted to the meeting tackled the industry in the Gaza Strip and the difficulties it faces under Israeli occupation.

After the 1967 Arab-Israeli war, Gaza's industry was forced into playing a minor complementary role to Israeli industry, often changing the mode of its own industry to suit Israeli market needs, said a research paper submitted by Halim Al Halabi, a researcher from the Gaza-based Development Resources Centre (DRC).

Mr. Halabi said a survey conducted by DRC found that the sewing industry was the largest sector in Gaza, accounting for 41 per cent of the total industries, followed by the construction at 19 per cent, wood at 17 per cent and metal works at 12 per cent.

In the Gaza Strip, there are no institutions or centres to help industry through specialised training programmes.

He added that Jordanian industry tends to accumulate costly expenses in this arena because it relies on foreign expertise to solve industrial problems.

install and implement the related technology and advanced equipment.

Mr. Halabi said that only in four of the 26 textile factories was new technology introduced involving the use of highly advanced machines.

Ibrahim Haddad, director general of the Atomic Energy Commission of Syria, presented a paper underlining the importance of the establishment of a regional centre for maintenance and repair of electronic equipment. In his paper, Dr. Haddad said that the countries of the Middle East lack national electronic equipment industries. He said these countries acquire their equipment from the industrialised nations, noting that frequently such equipment becomes partially or completely inoperable, hence the need for the projected centre in the region.

The role of the proposed centre should not necessarily be confined to repairs, but it can also carry out regular preventive maintenance on complex electronic equipment, Dr. Haddad noted.

The meeting, co-organised by the U.N. Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), will conclude today (Wednesday).

Husseini appeals for help

(Continued from page 1)

some of the biggest rampages, as saying they had been under orders not to use any force against the settlers, even in life-threatening situations.

But the army spokesman, in an official statement, said soldiers were under orders to "act firmly and aggressively against Jewish disturbers of the peace and Arabs equally."

The statement said soldiers could use "reasonable force" with officers' permission. Palestinians said soldiers on

Self-rule economic talks open

(Continued from page 1)

meeting in three weeks to study proposals of working groups on areas of disagreement between the two sides.

In Tunis, Norwegian Foreign Minister Johan Jorgen Holst has met with Yasser Arafat to discuss economic aid for self-rule as fellow Palestinians criticise Mr. Arafat's handling of the money, sources said Tuesday.

The Palestinian sources said Mr. Holst, in the meeting Monday, urged Mr. Arafat to

reshape an economic council that could receive almost \$2 billion pledged in aid over the next five years.

The PLO chairman is under fire for personally taking over the running of the economic council for development and reconstruction (see page 2).

Fellow Palestinians complain he is trying to seize control of the aid money for his own cronies within the PLO and warn that this could harm chances of receiving aid.

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Keep in touch

QATAR'S decision to establish telephone links with the West Bank has raised eyebrows in many Arab countries that have yet to get used to the accelerated pace of developments in the Middle East region. Ostensibly the reason for Doha's bold step is to facilitate contacts between the Palestinian people dispersed all over the world, especially the Gulf region. Arab states and peoples may regard this initiative as premature "normalisation" of relations with the state of Israel at a time when the peace process has yet to be formally concluded. Others would argue that linking the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip with the other parts of the Arab World would strengthen the resolve of the Palestinian people in their struggle for independence by enhancing their channels of communications with the outside world. In pragmatic terms, isolating the Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied territories from their own people in the diaspora as well as from the Arab Nation at large would only push them even further into the Israeli embrace, the last thing, strategically speaking, that would be on the Arab agenda.

There are obviously real risks in reestablishing telephone links between the occupied territories and the Arab World. There could be security risks that may undermine the stability of the Arab countries. This fear, however, may be exaggerated because telephone and facsimile contacts with the West Bank and Gaza Strip could only be made more difficult but not totally preventable. Palestinians have been calling their folks back home through the services of third parties with the full knowledge of all concerned. If there were really any security dangers present, available precautionary measures would still be used in the case of direct links.

At the current critical stage of the Israeli-Palestinian peace talks, it would seem infinitely more productive for the Arabs to reestablish telephone links with Palestinians under occupation than to resort to worn out complexes about such steps.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RAI Arabic daily Tuesday commented on planned visits by His Majesty King Hussein to Cairo and Damascus, noting that the Monarch was bound to discuss the prospects of peace in the region and the coming U.S. secretary of state's tour of the region. Coordination among the Arab parties is a national necessity at this juncture and the King is keen on arriving at a comprehensive peace with Israel involving all parties, said the paper. Nothing short of a comprehensive peace that would entail full withdrawal and the recognition of the Palestinian people's rights can survive, said the daily. All the previous deals with Israel served as temporary agreements that collapsed or will collapse in the face of any new developments in the region, said the paper. The American secretary of state's coming tour, added the paper, clearly indicates the presence of major obstacles impeding the path of peace and requiring serious international efforts, especially on the part of Washington, to help overcome the problems and implement U.N. resolutions, the paper added. What the Arab and Muslim people demand from the world community is full implementation of U.N. resolutions pertinent to the Middle East so that the international legitimacy's credibility can survive in the eyes of the nations of the world, continued the paper. It is not enough to say that peace is closer due to the signing of agreements unless, said the paper, people can see concrete steps taken to make that peace materialise.

AL DUSTOUR commented on the upcoming visit to the Middle East by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, saying that he is coming to deal with the obstacles that have delayed the peace process and prevented a peace agreement so far. There is no doubt that the tour will represent Washington's renewal of its commitment to play the role of partner in the peace process which has been blocked mainly on the Syrian-Israeli and Lebanese-Israeli tracks, said the paper. Mr. Christopher will not doubt seek to stimulate the peace process along these two tracks and if he can achieve a breakthrough, the road to peace will be paved, added the daily. But, it said, one should not forget that the Israelis have lately hardened their own position along the track with Syria, following the signing of the PLO-Israeli deal in Washington. Therefore, one can safely say that Mr. Christopher's coming visit will be a testing ground for the United States and its commitments to help the two sides reach a deal, it added. Unless a comprehensive deal is struck along all tracks, peace treaties will remain a matter of ink and paper. Unless the Americans exert real and serious efforts this time, the paper said, the prospects for peace remain very grim indeed.

Executive and legislative checks and balances

By Izzat R. Dajani

Now that the parliamentary elections are completed and the deputies have been selected by the votes of their respective constituencies, it is time to think and plan for the next stage. The government which supervised the elections is expected to resign after it completed its mandate as set by His Majesty King Hussein. However, most indications are that Dr. Abdul Salam Al Majali will form the new government, particularly that he is well versed in the peace process and its overt and covert details. More importantly, the new Parliament is characterised by a dominance of main stream, pro-establishment, centrist, and tribalist members. The street banners and candidates' slogans before the elections touched on the peace process to some degree, but the dominant issues were economy and institutional reforms and development.

While Dr. Majali can deal with the Parliament's formation, his Cabinet members need to be able to deal with the pressing issues both the country and the government are faced with. Most members of the present government are either bureaucrats or "old-fashion" civil servants. A major reshuffle needs to take place, introducing new figures into the government in order to allow it to face the tremendous challenges that need skill and experience.

Merit in government must be based on excellence and not on tribal allegiance, North and South or East and West! Analysts expect the new Cabinet to include a number of legislators who are experienced politicians and who the government needs to fulfill its policies, accomplish its mission and push forward the democratic process. This is where we sincerely hope such analysts are proven wrong! The government needs entrepreneurship and not statesmanship. Appointing legislators in the new cabinets had previously been either a functional reward for their pledges and activities or a measure to co-opt and mute their critical voices. None of these forms does the country need. This is time to innovate problem-solving and not pay back old favours. The government needs to work with Parliament and not co-opt it, particularly when the latter appears docile from its composition and its early, possibly premature, reading.

Elections were not run on party politics, except for the Islamic Action Front (IAF) which had a clear mission and an even clearer mandate. Since family and tribal groupings and allegiances

dominated the election characteristics, election results did not produce a dominant party or a coalition of parties that can force and influence events to control the government and hence put party politics into full practice.

We have regularly stressed that the Cabinet-member's honour is vested in his ability to fully execute the policies of the government as if they all agree with his own personal convictions. The honour of the legislator lies in an exclusive personal responsibility for what he does. This is where the prime minister should fiercely avoid including legislators in his Cabinet — something easier said than done. However, there is always a "first" to everything and this usually requires vision and courage.

It is truly time people started trusting government. Many governments in the past appeared to talk right but walk left. Governance is a very complex issue and the government needs to set its goals and priorities. Goals are thus very clearly articulated following extensive preparation for the long-run tasks, be they economic or political. Set goals can be then pursued steadily.

The government must work at reducing its foreign debt, out budget deficit, increase private investments, improve the infrastructure, shorten government red tape and become more efficient. Many pressing issues need to be handled efficiently and intelligently, such as unemployment, health, education, social welfare. Jordan seems to be plagued now by lagging competitiveness, lack of jobs, crumbling infrastructure and despair. Poverty and income disparity are becoming very

serious.

It thus appears that the demands the government strongly faces are social and economic. It needs to design social programmes in such a way that public services will have the most direct effects on public lives. The economy needs to be reoriented taking all above issues into consideration. Results must bear

"Among (the government's) most pressing needs is identifying the various resources and pulling them together. Appropriate planning can truly make a difference as it allows the government to act, perform and solve as opposed to react, confuse and half solve."

the consequences of equitable, just conclusions. It is time for the government to approach public policies and issues with a "soft heart but a hard head". This is composition with determination as much as it is a dream with tangible results.

The government's purpose is hence defined by the services the people need and want, not by what the system is currently designed to deliver.

It is important to define here the general ailing criteria we need to treat. Public service institutions find it difficult to innovate. In the absence of a profit test, as in the private sector, size is the one criteria of success for government and growth in size becomes a goal in itself. This bears the almost always predictable outcome which is bureaucratic behaviour. This is, ironically, the very criteria we need to improve and which bears the characteristics of a "Catch 22" situation.

It may be interesting for the government to recognise what it is doing well, what are the limitations to its strength and to judge performance against objectives. Among its most pressing needs is identifying the various resources and pulling them together. Its policies need not be reactive measures as in many past governments. Appropriate planning can truly make a difference as it allows the government to act, perform and solve as opposed to react, confuse and half-solve.

Jordan is still going through the process of economic adjustment under agreements with the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The country has every potential for success and growth since nations with more serious crisis, as in Latin America, showed amazing results following their economic policies. But the task needs political commitment and sensitivity. Planning is considered on a long and short-term basis. It must be understood that the process is slower with a coalition-building structure in a democratic Jordan as compared to a faster process and centralised structure in an authoritarian set-up.

The government needs to mobilise resources, develop systems, incorporate new groups and respond to demand. Effective economic adjustment requires a compromise between state and market forces in which the former needs technocratic and experienced ability to synthesise and implement policies of adjustment. There is need for adequate resources with effective use of external financial assistance. Furthermore, the country's resources need to be better utilised.

It appears that Jordan's economic adjustment process is moving away from inward-oriented import substitution with protectionist devices to outward export-oriented, which promises higher rates of gross domestic product (GDP) growth, lower unemployment, and possibly more equitable income distribution. Export promotion has potential for long-term sustained growth as import — substitution is faced with the limitations of Jordan's domestic market with a population around four million people.

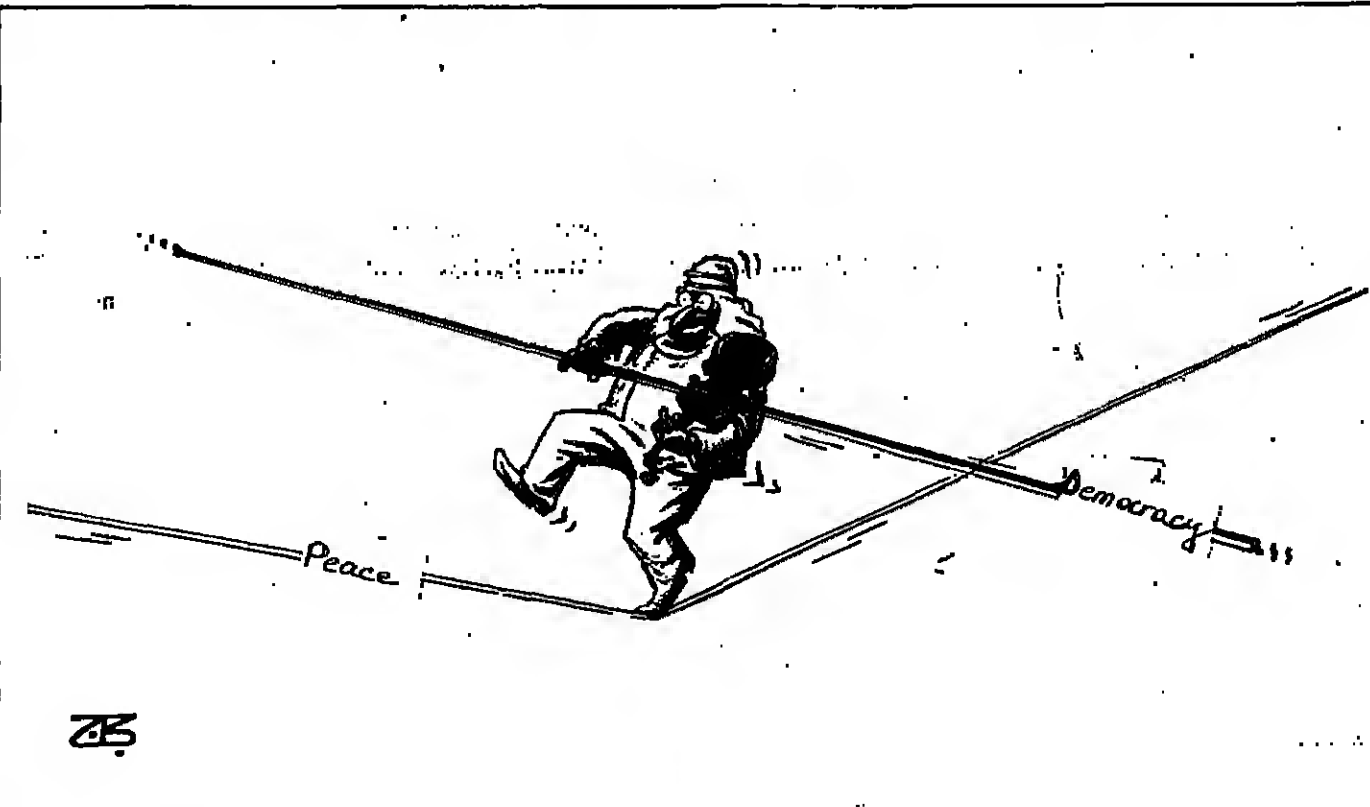
There appears to be enough support among the legislators for adjustment policies. It may also be necessary to create a high sense of involvement by business, labour and popular organisations, and to consult with them regularly. A sense of equity and fairness of policy must be portrayed by the government. The people, through their representative legislators, need to be constantly reminded of the government intentions to maintain the adjustment efforts. It is high time the government consulted with industrialists to help them with their prob-

lems and encourage them to export. It can even set up a fund to award successful exporters, as Taiwan does successfully. It is equally important to arrange meetings of donor agencies with industrialists and possibly agriculturalists in order to familiarise the donors with local conditions.

The government needs to stress and further convince donors that Jordan is a key element in the stability of the Middle East through its democratic process. This would enhance aid as the superpowers and rich donor countries understand and value states that promote democracy because they are thus promoting stability and reason. As a general rule, democracies tend not to fight with each other. If democratic Jordan should appear threatened by external or internal destabilisation forces, substantial inflows of donor funds can be almost guaranteed.

Striking the balance between economically viable and politically feasible policies is key to government success. It needs to measure winners and losers. It must evaluate successful management of its new policies. There are various forces affecting government policies of adjustment, which include meeting donor's requirements, population demands to recover its levels of living, and pressures from the military, business, organised labour and pressure groups. On the other hand, the elected legislators must force change towards improving the functioning of government and strengthening the state. Many promises were pledged during campaigning prior to elections. But it is humanly impossible to implement every thing pledged. U.S. Governor Mario Cuomo once said: "You campaign in poetry and you have to govern in prose." Every legislator must remember why he was elected.

The new prime minister appears to have no other option but to innovative in government as it is time to incorporate some measure of "total quality management" in the public system, much as is done in private sector industries. People need to be trained and well prepared. They need to have the productive capacity and be able to work together. The biggest task for the new government represented by the character and determination of its prime minister, may be breaking up old and constructing new traditions. The new cabinet needs to be one for the experts, the experienced and the technocrats and not for old-fashioned politicians and obsolete bureaucrats.



Palestinians fear Arafat one-man rule

By Robert Mahoney
Reuters

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM Most Palestinians will hail Yasser Arafat as the leader of their emerging state when the PLO chief follows retreating Israeli troops into Jericho in January.

But many of the two million Arabs of the West Bank and Gaza Strip are already questioning whether Mr. Arafat will try to rule as an iron-fisted guerrilla commander or a democratic statesman.

They fear that the political freedoms denied by 26 years of Israeli military occupation will remain outside their grasp.

The debate here is no longer about whether Mr. Arafat should have concluded a peace deal with Israel in September. The opposition has already lost that battle.

It is about whether Mr. Arafat, who has run the PLO as a one-man-show for a quarter of a century, will allow popular democracy and run government efficiently.

Disclosures last week that leading lights within Mr. Arafat's Fateh wing of the PLO had drafted a document demanding curbs on his power have sharpened the debate.

Optimists, such as Ibrahim Abu Lughod, a political scientist at Bir Zeit University in the West Bank, believe pluralism is strong enough among Palestinians here to prevent dictatorship.

Pessimists, such as Ziad Abu Amr, also of Bir Zeit, point to Mr. Arafat's administration of Palestinians first from Beirut and later from Tunis as an



Yasser Arafat

omen of the one-man-rule to come.

"We are not sure that the PLO leadership is capable of making the philosophical and intellectual shift from running a national liberation movement to running a civil society," Mr. Abu Amr said.

Mr. Arafat's appointment of himself to run the main body responsible for economic and financial control of the territories has added to the reformers' fears.

Opponents say Mr. Arafat will control the money and the Palestinian police force now being formed to take over internal security after Israeli soldiers begin withdrawing from Gaza and Jericho on Dec. 13.

They seize on remarks by Mr. Arafat's lieutenants in September that dissent to the peace accord would be crushed as signs of future repression. "Arafat runs the PLO as if it

were his own private enterprise," said Ghazi Abu Jayyab, a leader of the Marxist Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) faction of the PLO in Gaza. "This leads me to question what democracy we shall have during the self-rule period," he told Reuters.

His criticism is mirrored at the other end of the political spectrum by the Islamic fundamentalists who also oppose the deal with Israel.

"What we will have with autonomy is another Arab regime," said Adnan Saleh, who is close to Islamic Jihad. "One-man rule like in Iraq, or Syria or Egypt," he told Reuters. "I think Arafat will use force to silence the opposition."

Critics such as Mr. Salem point to the assassination of three PLO members in Gaza since September in Fateh power struggles as evidence of blood-letting to come. Fateh sources, however, think Mr. Arafat can contain the violence.

They believe that with the purse strings and a police force in his hands, not to mention an Israeli political and security establishment willing him to succeed, Mr. Arafat can capitalise on the skills which have kept him at the head of one of the world's most fractious liberation movements for a generation.

Mr. Abu Amr and many others say Palestinians fear that the corruption and mismanagement that have marked PLO government either from Lebanon or Tunis could come to Jericho.

He doubts, however, that

such fears would translate into a rebuff for Fateh at the polls for a council to run the transitional five-year self-rule period. The election must be held by next July.

Mr. Arafat, the symbol of Palestinians' nationalism, does not need to stand for election. His popularity is such that Fateh is expected to win handsomely.

Fateh sources expect him to neutralise the non-Islamic opposition, which has little popular support, by offering them guaranteed seats in the council.

Militants of the Hamas Islamic Movement inside the territories have still not said whether they will boycott the poll despite such statements from members abroad.

Some Palestinians, Mr. Abu Lughod among them, place great hope on the elections as a guarantor of political freedoms.

"The actual practice of pluralism is embedded in Palestinian life," he said, pointing to the existence of freedom of expression and good relations between Palestinian Muslims and Christians.

But for many Palestinians academic questions of political freedom are secondary. If Mr. Arafat can get the Israeli army off their backs and put money in their pockets he seems fairly secure.

"The broader spectrum of the population seems to be indifferent. Politics is not a priority for them," said Mr. Abu Amr. "Arafat is like the other Arab leaders. People will accept what he says. Public opinion is easily manipulated."

LETTERS

Arduous road ahead

To the Editor:

For Jordanian women, the election of Tujan Faisal to Parliament was our day in the light. We finally made it in the political process through our own efforts and depending solely on our own conviction that progress, if it is to be reached, has to be based on the equal participation of both sexes.

Although our expectations of Ms. Faisal are high and correctly placed, we are not oblivious to the great task ahead of us as supporters of female presence in Parliament. For we wearily realise that our candidate's actions and views in Parliament will be put under close scrutiny. Despite the fact that our woman MP shares this fate with her male counterparts, we fear that her views will not be judged merely as her own personal competence. Ms. Faisal's ability, unlike that of her male counterparts, will be taken as the index by which to measure the competence/incompetence of all Jordanian women and their supporters.

Moreover, in our euphoria for her success, we all realise that the road ahead for the elected woman is not going to be easy. In a small country with minimal resources and facing a complex regional, socio-economic and geo-political issues, address these issues. While doing so, we also expect our female candidate to be our mouthpiece in Parliament. She will hopefully address issues of concern to women, such as the personal status code, etc., which were not addressed in the previous all-male Parliament.

Therefore, for those who made a woman's presence in Parliament a possibility, there is tremendous work ahead. Reaching Parliament was only the first step. Now we have to employ our full intellectual, financial and professional qualifications in the service of our candidate to make her experience a success. That success will be the only guarantee for more women in Parliament and for a gradual change in society's attitudes towards women in politics.

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The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

Dead Sea scrolls, other artifacts enter Arab-Israeli dispute

By Arleh O'Sullivan
The Associated Press

JERUSALEM — When the Israeli army captured Bethlehem in 1967, an officer went straight to a well-known Arab antiquities dealer. He found a 2,100-year-old manuscript hidden under the floorboards and took it.

The manuscript, which described a Jewish temple, was part of the fabled Dead Sea scrolls and is one of many artifacts Israel has removed from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. The Palestinians want them back.

Custody of archaeological finds is legal quicksand internationally since most of those in most museums are from other countries, and many were plundered.

Israel signed a U.N. convention in 1954 that forbids excavation and removal of "cultural assets" by occupiers. But the capture of the West Bank in the 1967 Middle East war provided access to the heart of the Jews' ancient kingdoms, and the Israelis have conducted "rescue excavations."

Amir Drori, head of the Antiquities Authority, said

Judea and Samaria, the Biblical names for the West Bank, represent "our cultural cradle as a Jewish nation."

He is cautious about the future, however, and said plans for dealing with antiquities in the occupied territories include turning over some sites to the Palestinians, sharing some and continued Israeli control over others. He would not name sites.

Israel Radio said the Antiquities Authority on Sunday launched a massive search for artifacts in the West Bank's Judean Desert and Jordan Valley. Nineteen teams of archaeologists were to be dispatched, including some trained to climb down ropes dangling from helicopters to reach desert caves.

Archaeology and other cultural issues are expected to come up for negotiation after more immediate concerns, such as security. The Palestinians are to start managing their own affairs, including tourism, by next spring.

"The talks have not developed far enough yet to discuss details like archaeology," said Hassan Abu Libda, who heads the teams organising Palestinian position papers on

autonomy. "There are more vital issues at the moment."

Israel uses archaeology to reinforce the rights of Jews to the land. Palestinians say they are the indigenous people and should own the artifacts.

"We consider even the Jewish past in this country as an absolute and obvious part of our history," said Nazmi Jouhi, a Palestinian archaeologist and adviser to the peace negotiators. "The Palestinian culture is a mixture of tens of cultures that have occupied or invaded this land throughout history."

The Palestinians want the sarcophagi stolen by the late Gen. Moshe Dayan from Gaza Strip digs, mosaics taken from the floors of synagogues, the statues, coins, everything — including what many call the most important archaeological find of the century.

"Oh yes, we want the Dead Sea scrolls as well," Mr. Jouhi said.

Those scrolls were found in caves near the Dead Sea between 1947 and 1956. Israel became their keeper in 1967.

Contained in them is the earliest known version of the Old Testament. The most important are in a special exhibit

at the National Israel Museum in Jerusalem, and others are stored in a vault at a Rockefeller Museum across town.

"They won't touch them in their dreams," Yaakov Meshorer, curator of the archaeology collection at Israel Museum, said of the Palestinians. "This isn't a matter of blood," he said, "but of culture."

About 30 per cent of the museum's artifacts are from the occupied territories.

Israelis feel the seven major scrolls are incontestably theirs because they were purchased between 1947 and 1954. But ownership of the temple scroll obtained in Bethlehem is less clear.

That scroll, the longest of all, provides an interpretation of the laws of Moses that differs from mainstream Judaism. It includes a description of how the temple should be built and of different Jewish festivals.

Israel eventually paid the Bethlehem antiquities dealer, Khalil Iskander Shahin, who died this year, \$105,000 for the scroll. It is now in the shrine of the book in Jerusalem.

Magen Broshi, curator of the scrolls, said Palestinians had demonstrated little affinity

for items from the Jewish period.

"Show me just one who can read the Dead Sea scrolls," he said. "It's been 45 years since their discovery, and there hasn't emerged one Arab or Palestinian scholar in the hundreds and perhaps thousands from around the world who can read them."

Israeli archaeologists believe a compromise would include the return of some artifacts, provided they are protected and all scholars have access to them. The Palestinians say they would not refuse such cooperation, but want complete authority.

Israel finished its withdrawal from Sinai in April 1982 and returned some artifacts excavated there to Egypt in December 1982. The rest of those artifacts are scheduled to be returned to Cairo by 1994.

Mr. Drori said the situation with the West Bank and Gaza Strip is different, since the occupied lands are not sovereign.

Israeli archaeologists fear that, once Palestinians assume control, archaeological sites will be bulldozed over for building or that plundering for profit will increase.

Experts say maintaining stable, secure Mideast is possible

By M.C. Jaspersen

WASHINGTON — Two Middle East experts agree that while establishing security and stability among Israelis and Palestinians will not be easy, it is certainly possible.

The two experts — Major General (Ret.) Shlomo Gazit, senior research associate at Tel Aviv University's Jaffee Centre for Strategic Studies, and Ahmad S. Khalidi, editor-in-chief of the Journal for Palestine Studies and research fellow at Britain's Royal Institute for International Affairs — discussed Middle East peace concerns at a seminar sponsored by The Brookings Institution here Nov. 10.

"There will be no going back on what has been achieved... (The accord) symbolises a very fundamental, psychological, ideological turning point... for both parties."

Gen. Gazit said the signing of the Israeli-Palestinian Sept. 13 was historic because "it has brought to an end 100 years of conflict, of hostility... of grievances and misunderstandings between Israelis and Palestinians."

"There will be no going back on what has been achieved on that day," Gen. Gazit said, because the accord "symbolises a very fundamental, psychological, ideological turning point... for both parties."

He said he was "astounded" that the two peoples reached an agreement on mutual recognition, especially since "Israel, without saying it, does understand that the next phase will be an independent, sovereign Palestinian state."

In turn, Gen. Gazit said, Israel "has received, for the first time from the Palestinians and the Arabs, recognition that Israel has the right to exist in the Middle East as a different... separate... entity," which differs ethnically, religiously and culturally.

While such an "incredible achievement must not be minimised," Gen. Gazit said, it presents the "monumental task of bringing both Palestinians and Israelis to realise that as they attempt to make peace."

"Violence is still a factor, and it will be far, far more difficult to reeducate, and to change attitudes and values. I am not happy about it, but we have to live with the facts," said Gen. Gazit, who served as director of military intelligence for the Israeli army in the mid-1970s.

Both sides will have to be aware of exactly what they want to achieve and what restraints must be observed in their dealings with each other. Above all, he said, each side must approach the other with a great deal of understanding, each side must realise that to reach peace, compromise and flexibility will be essential and that the process will take time.

Another point that all who seek peace must understand, Gen. Gazit said, is that every single issue concerning the entire region will have to be dealt with point-by-point, and that "all through the process, something may go wrong."

For example, he said, if there is no Israeli peace with Syria, "Syria is capable of sabotaging the whole process. The Syrian-Israeli conflict has to be part of the deal." Another problem, the resettlement of refugees, "will take decades" to implement once a solution has been worked out, he pointed out.

In the final analysis, Gen. Gazit said, all must realise that the Middle East is characterised by an "instability that is going to remain with us for quite a long time."

No one, Gen. Gazit said, can foretell what countries will rise to threaten other countries, nor what changes will take place within any given country. To illustrate, Gen. Gazit said that "a change of the present Israeli government, going back to a right-wing government, will be detrimental for the (peace) process."

Mr. Khalidi, an adviser to the Palestinian delegation to

the Washington peace talks and a delegate to the multilateral talks on arms control and regional security, agreed with Gen. Gazit on many points.

He added that while the Palestinians feel nothing less than a Palestinian homeland in the end will secure their future, "this does not mean... that we will be in a position of symmetry with Israel." Since Israel's power — economic strength, military might, and international links with other countries — would be "hard to match," the parity sought by Palestinians would make them "moral equals, if not material equals" of Israelis.

"Violence is still a factor, and it will be far, far more difficult to reeducate and to change attitudes and values. I am not happy about it, but we have to live with the facts."

The Palestinians intend to wait to attempt to negotiate statehood until the peace process is well advanced, Mr. Khalidi said. For the process to work, both Israelis and Palestinians will have to govern themselves "with no intervention from one side into the affairs of the other."

At the same time, Mr. Khalidi said, Israelis and Palestinians will have to coordinate the management of their security affairs.

He said he feared Israel may "want to see evidence — daily — of a very firm control of the Palestinians by the Palestinians." That could harm the process, because "we cannot demand that there be a stable regime, and at the same time say that the only way to deal with this is through brute force," Mr. Khalidi said.

"For the emergence of a stable regime, we need time" to phase in economic and social structures along with a police force, Mr. Khalidi added — United States Information Agency.

Amnesty says serious human rights violations in Iran

SERIOUS human rights violations persist in Iran, and there is mounting concern about the sharp increase in the number of Iranian opposition figures killed outside the country, Amnesty International said Wednesday.

In a new report, the organisation highlights the cases of victims of long-term imprisonment, unfair trial, torture and execution, many of them members of religious and ethnic minorities.

Amnesty International said: "Political prisoners have spent years in prison after unfair trials, and more are being condemned to join them every year. Real or imagined political opponents are targeted, along with the religious minorities, such as Baha'is and Christian converts, and members of ethnic minorities like Kurds, Baluchis and Arabs. Women have been flogged for

violating Islamic dress codes, prisoners have been tortured and political dissidents have been executed."

And the violations continue: as recently as last month a cartoonist, Manouchehr Karimzadeh, was given a ten-year prison sentence because of a cartoon he produced for Farad magazine in 1992, after a court overturned his previous sentence of one year imprisonment. He joins the ranks of other prisoners of conscience in Iran — Amnesty International is calling for all of them to be freed.

The new report also cites several cases of opposition activists from different political opposition groups, killed outside Iran in the last 18 months: Sadegh Sharafkandi, the secretary general of the Kurdistan Democratic Party of Iran (KDPI), and three others

were gunned down by masked gunmen in Berlin in May 1992. Prosecutors in Germany have charged that the ringleader of the attack was an agent of the Iranian secret service who received orders to carry out the killings from his superiors in Tehran.

In a similar case, Al Akbar Ghorbani of the Minjadedeen-Khalq organisation of Iran, another opposition group, was abducted in Istanbul in June 1992. His mutilated corpse was discovered eight months later. The Turkish interior minister accused an "Islamic fundamentalist group with Iranian links" of killing him and two Turkish writers.

Killings such as these have continued this year — recent victims include two members of the Baluchi Naroui tribe shot dead outside their home in Karachi in March 1993; the Rome representative of the

opposition National Council of Resistance Movement of Iran, who was murdered the same month; and two others, Mohammad Ghaderi and Bahram Azadifar, both associated with the KDPI, who were killed in separate incidents in Turkey in August.

According to Amnesty International, the pattern of attacks on opposition activists strongly suggests that at least some may have been victims of extrajudicial executions by Iranian government agents.

"The government's routine denials ring hollow," said the organisation. "We know of no steps taken by the government to thoroughly investigate the alleged involvement of its officials in these killings."

"Many Iranians in exile live in constant fear of extrajudicial execution, a threat extended to non-Iranians too — such as the British writer, Sal-

man Rushdie, and individuals involved in publishing or translating his work, The Satanic Verses, which provoked a fatwa calling for his killing in February 1989.

"The government must take urgent action to improve its human rights record," Amnesty International said. "The cycle of violations has to be brought to an end if there is to be any hope for human rights in Iran."

Amnesty International's new report endorses recommendations made by the Human Rights Committee — a body of international legal experts, which monitors states parties implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights — in July 1993, aimed at bringing Iran's human rights law and practice into line with international standards — Amnesty International.

Despite oilman's release, no change in stance — U.S.

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The United States indicated Monday it would maintain its hardline against Iraq despite Baghdad's release of a U.S. oil worker who had been sentenced to eight years in prison.

"There has been nothing to indicate a change of attitude by Iraq," said White House spokesman Dee Dee Myers. She reiterated White House calls for Iraq to abide by all U.N. resolutions stemming from the Gulf war ceasefire.

Oil worker Kenneth Beaty was released Monday following six months in prison after the personal intervention of Democratic U.S. Senator David Boren.

Mr. Beaty, 46, was sentenced to eight years in jail in May for illegally entering Iraq from Kuwait. He arrived in Jordan later Monday and flew home to the United States.

Mr. Beaty left for Washington aboard an executive jet in time to celebrate his 47th birthday with his wife and two daughters in Mustang, Oklahoma, on Thursday.

Sen. Boren accompanied Mr. Beaty to the Jordanian capital.

King Hussein met Mr. Boren before their departure, officials said.

Mr. Beaty, who suffers from heart problems, was sentenced to eight years in jail for illegally entering Iraq from Kuwait.

"It feels great to be here," Mr. Beaty told reporters in Amman. "There are so many people for me to thank. I do not know where to start."

The Oklahoma oilman appeared fit and in good spirits after travelling with Mr. Boren to Amman from the Iraqi border aboard a Jordanian army helicopter.

An Iraqi statement said President Saddam Hussein had ordered Mr. Beaty's release in response to a request from Mr. Boren and other leading Americans.

Mr. Beaty was head of exploration for California-based Santa Fe Oil Co. His release had been sought on humanita-

rian grounds on account of heart problems.

After the release Iraqi radio read off letters from prominent U.S. figures including former President Jimmy Carter, former Attorney General Ramsey Clark and numerous congressmen.

Mr. Beaty's release was widely seen as a goodwill gesture by President Saddam, who is striving to lift the crippling U.N. sanctions and be allowed to start exporting oil again.

The United Nations Security Council was expected to review the sanctions next week. Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz was scheduled to

open talks with U.N. officials in New York on Nov. 22.

Mr. Boren told reporters in Amman that he appealed Mr. Beaty's release during a meeting with Mr. Aziz on Sunday. But he stressed that his mission was "purely personal humanitarian in nature" and had no bearing on U.S. policy towards Iraq.

"So that there will be no misunderstanding of the nature of my mission, let me stress that I carried no messages from my government to the government of Iraq. I received no messages to be delivered back and I undertook no negotiation of other matters..." he said.

JOB VACANCY

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Jericho area big hurdle in talks

(Continued from page 1)
reporters that the PLO was "not very organised" and that PLO-Israel negotiations might not be complete by the Dec. 13 deadline.

"Despite the difficulties, we will reach agreement, maybe not Dec. 13, but by the end of December," said Ramon, adding that it would be "impossible" to start withdrawal until agreement on implementing the self-rule accord was reached.

Mr. Rabin was quoted in Israeli media Tuesday as saying he would "not fall off my chair" if talks extended beyond the Dec. 13 deadline.

Azmi Shoaibi, a PLO official involved in the peace talks with Israel, predicted the two sides would not meet the Dec. 13 deadline for signing a detailed plan to implement self-rule, the transfer of authority is to be complete by April 13.

"I do not think the parties will manage signing the agreements on time," said Mr. Shoaibi of Yasser Abd Rabbo's faction of the PLO.

Mr. Shoaibi criticised PLO leader Yasser Arafat for slowing down the process of decision-making by travelling too much.

"We cannot have meetings

without him. He is impeding decision-making," he said.

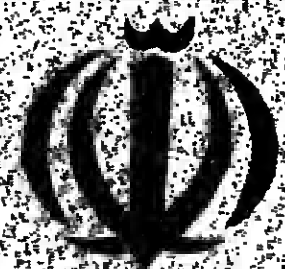
Some Palestinians viewed the prospect of delay with alarm.

"We must meet the deadline if we want to sustain the agreement," said Saad Erekat, a member of the Palestinian team to the now suspended talks in Washington.

Polls in Israeli newspapers last week suggested there was a significant erosion of public support for the PLO-Israel accord.

A telephone survey of 500 Israelis published by the daily Maariv newspaper found that 45 per cent said they would not support the agreement if a referendum was held now while 39 per cent said they would give their backing. Sixteen per cent were undecided.

Mr. Ramon contended that the 55 to 60 per cent level for the PLO-Israel accord — little changed from the time of the signing Sept. 13. But an official who demanded anonymity conceded the government was worried about dwindling public support and blamed Mr. Arafat for slowing down the process of decision-making by travelling too much.



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CBJ governor details Jordan's expected monetary role in the occupied territories

Amman seeks better terms for reopening branches of banks

banks and financial institutions as well as moneychanging companies, assess credit volume and supervise the supply and other money-related operations in the land that will be under the self-rule authority.

B) The committee will study the alternative to establish a central Palestinian monetary institution to assume responsibility at an adequate time.

C) Authorising the CBJ to organise the reopening of branches (of Jordanian banks) closed in 1967 as well as moneychangers and other financial institutions during the interim period. The CBJ will supervise the operations of the branches in accordance with Jordanian legislations currently in force.

D) The joint committee will lay down the arrangements to license branches for new

shares on the Amman Financial Market and to cooperate in setting up a Palestinian stock exchange.

I) To cooperate and participate in setting up specialised development banks in the areas of housing, industry and agriculture and to speed up the establishment of a Palestinian Development Bank.

Dr. Nabulsi said the CBJ had rejected a request by a Jordanian bank to reopen its branches in the occupied territories despite the approval by the Israeli authorities because the CBJ wanted to organise the entire procedure whereby all Jordanian banks which closed in 1967 could reopen their branches "under the framework of a single comprehensive umbrella."

He said Cairo-Amman Bank, which reopened in the West Bank in 1987, was functioning under very strict and

before submitting an application to the Israeli authority, which undertakes not to license any bank the CBJ disapproves of.

2) Israel will adopt the Basic Committee accord known as the Concordat as the framework to organise and supervise the branches while the CBJ will carry the responsibilities of ensuring the financial sufficiency and liquidity of the banks at home.

3) The CBJ will bear the responsibility of supervising the branches and conducting inspection on them.

4) This understanding ceases upon handing over the banking responsibilities in the occupied territories to the Palestinian authority.

Dr. Nabulsi said that, based on the Israeli-Palestinian declaration of principles, Israel was seeking to consolidate the economic

that could have damaged the interests of the Jordanians and Palestinians by allowing the Israelis five more years to tighten the ties between the Israeli economy and the Palestinian economy," Dr. Nabulsi explained.

The second choice, he pointed out, was to embark on building a solid economic base with the occupied territories in the interim period so as to develop strong long-term ties.

"The challenge in the second alternative is the tightrope approach which should be adopted to avoid dealing with the Israeli economy before concluding a peace accord," the governor said.

Since Jordan chose to adopt the second alternative and started to implement its objective, Dr. Nabulsi specified the following three dimensions which are seen as

tremely disastrous were not correct in their views.

He stressed that Jordan's role aims primarily at confronting the Israeli attempt to intensify its domination of the economy of the occupied territories and to use it as a way to penetrate the region.

Jordan also wants to help the Palestinians resist Israeli pressure for economic gains in exchange for what it sees as political concessions.

According to Dr. Nabulsi, Jordan is also trying to avoid having its role marginalised both in the economic arrangements for the occupied territories or in the regional arrangements being formulated within the framework of the peace process.

The governor sought to allay fears about the possibility of a large reduction in foreign currency reserves that may trigger dangerous press-

necessary, is an organised withdrawal that would protect the interests of both sides.

"In fact, we are now coordinating with the Palestinian side to put in place an acceptable mechanism to be used when necessary for this purpose," he said.

The possibility of high inflation crossing from the occupied territories to Jordan is likely but, according to Dr. Nabulsi, its impact would most probably be limited.

He explained that aid earmarked for the occupied territories would largely be in kind and only a portion of cash aid would be changed for dinars. Moreover, he said, possible "imported inflation" would depend on the products and the volume of trade between Jordan and the occupied territories.

"Inflation depends primarily on monetary expan-

The governor also mentioned the difficulty in monitoring the transfer of funds and emphasised the need "to formulate policies and legislations that would organise the usage of these funds and ways to identify their source and the reasons behind the transfers."

Dr. Nabulsi envisaged the following advantages:

1) Large inflow of foreign currency to Jordan as a result of high demand for the Jordanian dinar in the occupied territories.

2) High banking activity in facilitating trade transactions between the two sides and in various types of investments and joint ventures.

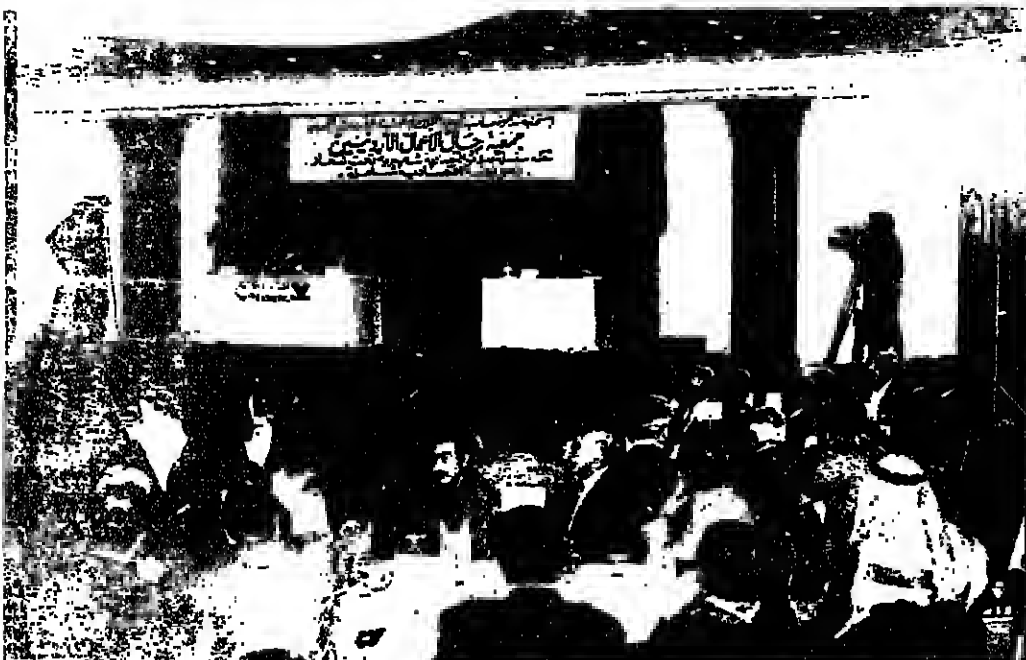
3) Increased banking pro-

fits as banks utilise their high liquidity in rebuilding the territories thereby relieving the CBJ from the burden of absorbing the excess cash.

4) Expanding the money market as Jordanian bonds, certificates of deposits and treasury bills would be available in the occupied territories.

5) Increased activity at the Amman Financial Market as a result of the addition of shares of Palestinian companies.

About 500 prominent businessmen attended the economic gathering which was the eleventh organised by the Jordanian Businessmen Association.



Businessmen listen to Central Bank of Jordan Governor Muhammad Saeed Nabulsi speak about "The Monetary and Banking Aspects of the Peace Talks."



Jordanian banks as well as licensing national Arab and foreign banks. These branches will also be under the CBJ supervision.

E) The two sides will arrange an appendix protocol regarding the foreign currency deposits of the Palestinian authority and the means to utilise it for import and external payments. Also, the Palestinian authority will have the right to issue internal debentures.

F) The Jordanian dinar will continue to be used and circulated in Palestine throughout the interim period.

G) The two sides are to cooperate to safeguard the exchange rate stability of the Jordanian dinar.

H) Prepare studies and arrangements to enable the Palestinian public shareholding companies and joint establishments trade their

rigid Israeli terms and the CBJ was seeking fairer and easier conditions whereby Jordanian banks can function more freely in accordance with Jordanian supervision regulations.

To achieve this end, Dr. Nabulsi said, negotiations started late last year but, despite the progress achieved, there has not been a final agreement yet.

He pointed out that the negotiations to reopen the branches of Jordanian banks sought two documents: One on reopening and sustaining the operations of the branches and the other on the licensing of banks wanting to open branches.

According to the CBJ chief, following are the main points agreed upon with the Israeli side:

1) A Jordanian bank wishing to open a branch must have a CBJ approval

ties with the Palestinian economy during the interim period.

The articles and appendices of the agreement have put considerable obstacles that left the Palestinians little room to freely manage their economic affairs, Dr. Nabulsi said.

As such, he added, Jordan was faced with two choices in the area of organising its economic ties with the occupied territories during the interim period.

The first choice was for Jordan to remain indifferent for five years without establishing any economic ties with the occupied territories because of the absence of an independent Palestinian decision and the difficulty in differentiating between dealings with the occupied territories and Israel.

"Clearly, this choice would have consolidated a situation

most essential by the Jordanians and the Palestinians:

A) Movement of goods and services i.e. trade

B) Movement of people

C) Transfer of funds.

According to the governor, the most touchy item is that of the transfer of funds because it is possible to identify the goods and the people and organise their movement in suitable and agreeable forms.

The transfer of funds carry the risk of an inflow or outflow of money intended for political or strategic purposes, the governor said noting that such possibilities necessitate looking for alternatives to restrict uncontrolled movement of funds.

Dr. Nabulsi examined the advantages and disadvantages of the Jordanian monetary and banking role in the occupied territories, noting that those who see it extremely rewarding or ex-

ures on the dinar saying:

"The possible risk of having large sums of Jordanian money supply in the occupied territories outside CBJ control is no cause for major concern as the CBJ will be authorised to implement its monetary and banking control in the occupied territories. Also, there will be a supply of foreign currency that will be added to the reserves against the possible currency expansion in the occupied territories."

He dismissed concerns over the possibility that the Jordanian dinar could be replaced in a one big dump for political reasons will cause a currency and banking collapse in Jordan.

"Such a possibility is very limited because its consequences will not affect Jordan alone," he said, adding that what is more probable, should a replacement become

sion and that is largely under the control of the CBJ within the structural adjustment programme being implemented," the governor stressed.

The difference in the economic requirements for the occupied territories were not seen as a cause of concern by the CBJ chief since "prudent monetary policy should first and foremost in all cases achieve currency stability."

"As such, the considerations for the drawing of and implementing the monetary policy are to a great extent similar to both Jordanian and Palestinian economies," Dr. Nabulsi said. However, he assured his audience that Jordan would continue to implement the structural adjustment programme and would consult with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on the monetary and banking role in the occupied territories.

Russia tightens credit rules

MOSCOW (R) — Russia has issued resolutions tightening the rules on awarding state credits and allocating export quotas to companies, ITAR-TASS news agency has said.

All decisions on issuing federal credits would be taken by an "authorised state body" and require the approval of Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin.

Requests for such credits would have to be submitted to the government via its commission for credit policy, one of the resolutions said.

A separate resolution said that decisions on export quotas would be adopted by another government commission and requests for such quotas would be submitted through the economics ministry, headed by leading reformer Yegor Gaidar.

Until now, policy on export quotas has been the domain of the foreign trade ministry, which has seen its role cut back in recent months following criticism of its performance and allegations of official corruption.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 17, 1993
By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES:
The Sun conjuncts Pluto and the Moon conjuncts Neptune and Uranus bringing new information into the open about singer-dancer Michael Jackson. See that accumulated work gets completed timely.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You find that matters beneath your own roof require more than usual attention during the daytime but the evening is fine for entertaining at home.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Whatever you have in mind in communications with others requires your approach from an awareness of other persons desires tonight make visits to see pals.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Be sure you are correct before you make any complaint about some account but later you know how to act with business persons so good relationships follow.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You can have wrong ideas early about how to get your own personal longings but later conditions break and happiness becomes yours.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You don't see how to get out from under a perplexing anxiety but the cloud soon lifts and you are able to handle it in a very understanding manner.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Think over the various wishes you have and be sure they are clear in your mind and await until tonight before attempting to make them a part of your life.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You may have to handle an important family matter before you get into outside obligations but make sure that you do later concentrate upon public activities.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Consider what new outlets can aid your progress and, study them closely but do not put them into motion until tonight when conditions break for you.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Whatever you have in mind where your mate is concerned can have aspects you do not understand without careful analysis, then tonight romance is great.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Conditions come to light about an associate that are upsetting but can be ironed out so that in the evening a new accord can then exist.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You want to fly off and leave some duties unfinished but it could have adverse effect and by being steadfast you get big benefits your way.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) It will not be until evening that you are able to enjoy yourself as you wish so make a point to get into cleaning up what is confusing at first.

THE BETTER HALF By Harris

"I don't like to laugh at movies. It interferes with my chewing."

Peanuts

IF EVERYONE LISTENED TO ME, THIS WOULD BE A PERFECT WORLD!

JUST THINK ABOUT IT... WOULDN'T YOU LOVE TO LIVE IN A PERFECT WORLD?

WELL, WHY NOT?!

Andy Capp

HOW'S THE DATE GOING WITH YOU, ANDY?

TALK ABOUT OBSTINATE, FLO. I COULDN'T EVEN GET HIM TO START ON IT. JUST LOOK AT HIM!

HE REFUSES TO THINK OF IT AS FAT - HE INSISTS ON THINKING OF IT AS PADDING!

HE'S GOT A POINT -

Mutt'n'Jeff

GO YOU'VE DECIDED TO MARRY THAT RICH WIDOW, EH, JEFF?

I ASKED HER YESTERDAY! I'M GOING OVER FOR HER ANSWER NOW!

I'M TIRED OF ALWAYS BEING BROKE! IF SHELL MARRY ME, I'LL BE ON EASY STREET! NO MORE WORRYING WHERE MY NEXT MEAL IS GONNA COME FROM!

PEOPLE TELL ME YOU'RE JUST A FORTUNE TELLER! THAT YOU WANT TO MARRY ME FOR MY MONEY!

ALAS! THE GOSSIP OF A CRUEL WORLD! BELIEVE IT NOT, BELIEVE IT!

I DON'T DEAREST SO I GAVE ALL MY MONEY TO THE SALVATION ARMY TO SILENCE THE GOSSIPS!

WHERE ARE YOU GOING JEFF?

I'M GOIN' TO JOIN THE SALVATION ARMY!

BIRTHSTONES FOR NOVEMBER

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DALAN

THE Daily Crossword by Frank R. Jackson

ACROSS

- 1 Musical sign
- 5 Evil one
- 10 Abhor
- 14 Toward the center
- 15 Public structure
- 16 NC college
- 17 Big-time music
- 18 Advance
- 20 Proprietor
- 21 Sorrow
- 22 Advance upward
- 23 Ship's rope
- 26 Spec. measure
- 28 Pedestal
- 31 Recedes
- 35 Conscience, e.g.
- 37 Brawl section
- 38 Spring bloomer
- 40 Garfield production
- 44 Before
- 46 Morfo of opera
- 48 "We forget"
- 49 Inspire
- 50 Water barrier
- 51 Numerical prefix
- 52 Make ready for
- 54 Integrate on
- 58 An Eisenhower
- 62 "Alexander," for one
- 65 Jason's ship
- 66 Abstract beings
- 67 In the past
- 68 Means of access
- 69 Theatre
- 70 Chestnut color

DOWN

- 1 Puerto
- 2 Plenty, to poets
- 3 Daze
- 4 Darkroom
- 5 Social bad
- 6 Greek letter
- 7 Large quantity
- 8 Quelling agent
- 9 Indigent
- 10 Youth goddess
- 11 Week's utterance
- 12 Oodles and oodles
- 13 Termite
- 18 Speaker
- 19 Stimulant
- 23 Temperance
- 24 Bauge tone
- 26 Helios, abbr.
- 27 Travel stopover
- 28 Thick soup
- 30 Coat feature
- 32 A —
- 33 Legating
- 34 Medial plant
- 36 Excavations
- 38 In the future
- 39 Early man
- 41 Kind of drum
- 42 Family or shoe
- 47 Mountain
- 48 Member's aids
- 49 Small coin
- 51 Street
- 52 Show
- 53 Small drum
- 54 — Beach, Fla.
- 55 Omaha's enemy
- 56 Tanager
- 58 Sp. bird
- 59 — war bird
- 60 Peruvian
- 61 NYC location
- 62 Teenager
- 63 Sp. bird
- 64 Fodder

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

ACROSS: 1. Musical sign, 5. Evil one, 10. Abhor, 14. Toward the center, 15. Public structure, 16. NC college, 17. Big-time music, 18. Advance, 20. Proprietor, 21. Sorrow, 22. Advance upward, 23. Ship's rope, 26. Spec. measure, 28. Pedestal, 31. Recedes, 35. Conscience, e.g., 37. Brawl section, 38. Spring bloomer, 40. Garfield production, 44. Before, 46. Morfo of opera, 48. "We forget", 49. Inspire, 50. Water barrier, 51. Numerical prefix, 52. Make ready for, 54. Integrate on, 58. An Eisenhower, 62. "Alexander," for one, 65. Jason's ship, 66. Abstract beings, 67. In the past, 68. Means of access, 69. Theatre, 70. Chestnut color.

DOWN: 1. Puerto, 2. Plenty, to poets, 3. Daze, 4. Darkroom, 5. Social bad, 6. Greek letter, 7. Large quantity, 8. Quelling agent, 9. Indigent, 10. Youth goddess, 11. Week's utterance, 12. Oodles and oodles, 13. Termite, 18. Speaker, 19. Stimulant, 23. Temperance, 24. Bauge tone, 26. Helios, abbr., 27. Travel stopover, 28. Thick soup, 30. Coat feature, 32. A —, 33. Legating, 34. Medial plant, 36. Excavations, 38. In the future, 39. Early man, 41. Kind of drum, 42. Family or shoe, 47. Mountain, 48. Member's aids, 49. Small coin, 51. Street, 52. Show, 53. Small drum, 54. — Beach, Fla., 55. Omaha's enemy, 56. Tanager, 58. Sp. bird, 59. — war bird, 60. Peruvian, 61. NYC location, 62. Teenager, 63. Sp. bird, 64. Fodder.

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Arginton

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

LUTIG

GOSGY

EUT'OE

SIBOPH

WHAT HIS WEIGHT GAIN CAUSED.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: _____

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: LUCID WEIGH ERMAINE GIBLET

Answer: What the cops did with the barbecue thief — GRILLED HIM

JORDAN MARKET PLACE

Croats launch massive attack in Bosnia; new aid talks planned

SARAJEVO (AFP) — Some 4,000 Croat troops took part in a massive tank and helicopter-backed HVO offensive on the government-held central Bosnian town of Gornji Vakuf, a U.N. Protection Force spokesman said Tuesday.

Croat gunners sent down a barrage of some 550 heavy artillery shells on the town, 70 kilometres west of Sarajevo, said UNPROFOR spokesman Lt-Col. Bill Aikman.

Up to 15 tanks took part in the attack, which followed weekend reports by U.N. military officials that Bosnian Serbs had been running "root-a-tak" operations for Croat forces in the Croat-controlled Kiseljak pocket.

British U.N. troops in the area took to their bunkers because of the severity of the barrage, and only emerged around 3:00 p.m. (1400 GMT) when the offensive was halted, Col. Aikman added.

Croat forces used a helicopter to spot artillery targets and troops movement along the 13-kilometre (eight-mile) front by the mainly Muslim Bosnian army, said Col. Aikman.

But despite the concerted assault government troops held their line, he said. Gornji Vakuf was reported calm Tuesday morning, he added.

The town occupies a strategic position on supply routes linking northern and southern Bosnia, secure con-

trol of which would enable the land-locked Bosnian army to resupply and re-equip its embattled forces.

It could also help it resupply its forces in embattled towns in the largely Croat-held south of the country, notably Mostar.

Fojnica, 45 kilometres west of Sarajevo, and nearby Bakovici where Canadian and Danish U.N. troops are caring for some 600 mental and disabled adults and children, was reported quiet Monday, the spokesman said.

The town, scene of bitter fighting between Bosnian army and HVO units at the weekend, remained in Bosnian control but Bakovici has been captured by HVO troops.

U.N. Military Observers (UNMOs) reported Monday that two Roman Catholic priests had been found murdered at the Franciscan monastery in Fojnica, said Col. Aikman.

They had been shot several times and appeared to have been dead for several days. Bosnian authorities took their bodies to Visoko, some 15 kilometres to the east, for post-mortem examination, he said.

The HVO called on UNPROFOR and the U.N. military and civilian police to visit the murder scene, but they were denied access by Bosnian troops, Col. Aikman added.

They were due to try again Tuesday.

In Sarajevo, the government condemned the murders and promised to investigate the deaths.

Col. Aikman said Bosnian Serbs had again shelled the Olavo area, north of Sarajevo, Monday, while Sarajevo Radio said the Serb offensive in the area was continuing Tuesday morning.

Meanwhile, in the Croatian capital of Zagreb, U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) spokesman Peter Kessler said aid to the mental patients in hospitals at Fojnica and Bakovici had left Zenica, 40 kilometres north of those two towns.

He said the eight-truck convoy bearing food and fuel for electric generators was expected to arrive at its destination later in the day, despite the fighting in the area.

Mr. Kessler said only 1,000 to 2,000 people were still in Fojnica, which had a total population of 16,000 before the war. During the fighting they take refuge in the surrounding hills, returning at night to the town.

Bosnia's three warring factions plan to attend a meeting organised by the UNHCR in order to guarantee aid convoys' safe passage throughout Bosnia, a UNHCR spokeswoman said Tuesday.

Sylvana Foa said Bosnia

President Alija Izetbegovic, Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic and his military strongman Ratko Mladic have indicated they will attend the Thursday meeting.

Bosnian Croat leader Mate Boban and several other Bosnian Croat officials also plan to be there and Bosnia's Vice President Ejup Ganic said Monday that his government would send a representative.

Ms. Foa said U.N. High Commissioner Sakako Ogata has convened the "last chance" meeting in order to press all of the warring parties to end "their political and military games" and ensure the survival of three million people entirely dependent on humanitarian aid during the upcoming winter months.

She said the UNHCR needs unconditional guarantees for the safe passage of its convoys and for emergency medical evacuations.

She said one example of the obstacles the UNHCR encounters in Bosnia was illustrated Tuesday morning when Serb troops besieging Sarajevo at the last minute decided to impose new conditions to allow the evacuation of 50 patients from the capital.

Aid convoys to central Bosnia were suspended three weeks ago when a Danish truck driver was killed in a mortar attack the U.N. has blamed on the Bosnian army.



Japanese Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa is congratulated by special parliamentary committee members after his new election bills were passed at the committee session of the Lower House Tuesday (AFP photo)

Hosokawa's reform bills clear 1st hurdle

TOKYO (R) — Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa's package of political reforms cleared its first parliamentary hurdle Tuesday and is headed for a vote in the full lower house by Friday, his self-imposed deadline.

After a month of debate, the measures were passed in a special lower house committee after Mr. Hosokawa failed to reach an agreement with Yohei Koo, head of the main opposition Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), after two rounds of talks.

The bills now go to the full lower house, either Thursday or Friday, where Mr. Hosokawa's coalition has a fragile majority. The upper house needs about a month to deliberate on the bills before they become law.

Mr. Hosokawa said he must get lower house approval by Friday, when he is to leave for Seattle to attend the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit.

Mr. Hosokawa, on assuming office three months ago, said he would take political respon-

sibility if he failed to pass the bills by year's end, a remark taken to mean he would resign or call for fresh elections.

Political reform has been under debate in parliament since 1989 when a series of funding scandals rocked the then LDP government. Failure to enact reforms has since forced the resignation of two LDP governments, eventually breaking the LDP's 38-year grip on office.

This year the coalition government and the LDP agreed in principle to introduce British-style single-seat constituencies combined with proportional representation, but they disagree on details.

Besides redrawing electoral boundaries, the proposed reforms aim to make campaigning less costly for candidates and include stiff anti-graft laws.

Politicians blamed lavish campaign spending and loopholes in existing election and political funding laws as the main cause of rampant political corruption.

Ex-KGB agent: Oswald was 'a clear neurotic'

MOSCOW (AP) — A former KGB agent who met with Lee Harvey Oswald two months before President Kennedy was shot described the soon-to-be assassin as "a clear neurotic" desperate to reenter the Soviet Union to escape FBI harassment.

"I was struck by his aloofness," retired Col. Oleg Nechiporenko said in an interview with the daily Izvestia, published Monday. "He seemed to be looking right through me, deep in his own thoughts."

Col. Nechiporenko, who was vice consul at the Soviet embassy in Mexico in 1963, said Oswald visited the embassy twice that year — on Sept. 27 and 28 — to ask for immediate permission to return to the Soviet Union.

According to Col. Nechiporenko, Oswald told him the FBI had been "following" him and had prevented him from getting a good job since he came back to the United States.

Oswald defected to the Soviet Union in 1959, but returned to the United States two years later. After the Kennedy Nov. 22, 1963 assassination, the KGB claimed it had

rejected Oswald as an agent and blocked his efforts to return to the Soviet Union.

During the one-hour interview, Col. Nechiporenko said Oswald's mood kept changing. "Sometimes he became terribly excited, shaky," Col. Nechiporenko said. "A clear neurotic."

When told that he had to get a visa from the Soviet embassy in Washington, Oswald almost broke down and said it could lead to tragedy, the retired officer said.

The next day, Oswald met with some of Col. Nechiporenko's colleagues, saying he did not want to go back to the United States for fear of being murdered, then showing them a revolver and saying he would use it to defend himself.

Speculation has persisted for years that Oswald's alleged assassination of Kennedy and his own subsequent murder by Jack Ruby were carried out with the help or knowledge of foreign agents, including the KGB.

But Col. Nechiporenko said Oswald was of no interest of his bosses in Moscow. It took the embassy several days to report Oswald's visit to the KGB and the Soviet Foreign Ministry.

Kashmir mosque siege ends peacefully

SRINAGAR, India (R) — A month-long standoff between Indian troops and Muslim militants holed up inside Kashmir's boldest mosque ended peacefully when the guerrillas surrendered before dawn Tuesday, officials said.

They said 65 people, including an unspecified number of militants, left the white marble buildings of the Hazratbal Shrine in two batches between one and 2:30 a.m. (1930-2100 GMT).

India's Doordarshan state-run television showed film of men apparently filing out of the compound, bundled in capes and blankets against the sub-zero winter temperatures. Doordarshan quoted Kashmir's police chief, Mahendra Sabharwal, as saying they had surrendered and been detained by local police for questioning.

"Good sense has finally prevailed," Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao said in a statement.

Independent confirmation of the surrender was not immediately available and it was not clear if a deal had been done with the government. There was no initial comment from militant groups or political parties.

The siege has fuelled a four-year-old uprising, against Indian rule in the Himalayan state, the only Muslim majority region in mainly Hindu India. Police and hospital sources say at least 13,000 people have been killed in the rebellion.

The Hazratbal area remained under indefinite curfew Tuesday morning. Only a few journalists from state-run media were allowed to witness the exodus.

It was not clear how many of the 65 inmates from the shrine, on the shores of Srinagar's Dal Lake, were armed militants, nor whether any were foreign nationals. Officials have claimed there were at least two Pakistanis inside.

India accused Pakistan of arming and training Kashmiri militants, a charge Islamabad denies.

Doordarshan showed film of one man, apparently an inmate, who said he came from the third of Kashmir under Pakistani rule.

Officials said a large haul of arms including rifles, grenades and rocket launchers was recovered from the shrine complex. The army siege of the mosque began at midnight on Oct. 15.

The government said it acted to foil an alleged plot to steal or destroy the shrine's relic, a hair believed by Kashmiris to be from the beard of the Prophet Mohammad. The mysterious week-long disappearance of the hair in 1963 sparked major riots.

But officials and army officers said privately they wanted to trap a guerrilla leader they wrongly believed was inside. Officials said Muslim clerics entered the mosque Tuesday morning and confirmed the relic was safe.

The shrine was expected to open to the public again by Thursday, Doordarshan said.

Political analysts said the fact that the inmates were held by local police rather than the army suggested a deal with the government. India's Central Security Forces regard Kashmiri police with suspicion, saying they may sympathise with the uprising.

Curator doubts authenticity of Rembrandt

WASHINGTON (R) — A curator of the National Gallery of Art says two more of the museum's "authentic" Rembrandt's were not painted by the Dutch master but are the work of his students, a newspaper said Monday. Legal Times said curator Arthur Wheelock, a foremost authority on Rembrandt Van Rijn, said two of the gallery's Rembrandt's — Joseph Accused By Potiphar's Wife, and A Woman Holding A Pink — were works by the master's pupils.

In a continuing reevaluation of the gallery's Rembrandts, another painting labelled a real Rembrandt, An Old Lady With A Book, was now deemed by Wheelock a joint creation by Rembrandt and a student, said the Washington-based paper, which covers legal matters. In the article by independent art writer Murray White, it was learned Mr. Wheelock's investigation also found a Rembrandt in the gallery called A Polish Nobleman, was not that of a Polish nobleman but a self-portrait. Rembrandt Van Rijn, who lived from 1666 to 1669, had as many as 100 or more students and assistants while running a large studio in Amsterdam. Because of the large number of Rembrandt pupils, art detectives have been trying for years to differentiate between Rembrandts by the master and Rembrandt copycats by his pupils.

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The sources include human rights advocates who were briefed by U.S. administration officials and Chinese familiar with government thinking.

In talks during the APEC forum, the United States will offer to remove a ban on high technology sales slapped on Beijing because of alleged sales of M11 missiles to Pakistan.

The offer would be conditional on China clearly agreeing to restrict weapons proliferation in future, the sources said.

U.S. companies that want badly to export the satellites and related equipment covered under the ban imposed in August have put the administration under a lot of pressure to lift the sanctions.

In another key step, China will agree to give greater access to U.S. inspectors trying to trace the export of prison-made products if Washington loosens restrictions on the import of two goods previously suspected to having been manufactured by prisoners.

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Yeltsin meets with regional leaders

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin met with a number of regional government leaders Tuesday in the town of Tula, 260 kilometres south of here, in a bid to defuse tensions.

"I invited heads of administrations so they could see the example" set by the Tula region in finding "solutions to the problem of conversion" — military hardware to peaceful use — Interfax quoted Mr. Yeltsin as saying on arrival.

He also visited the former home of author Leo Tolstoy, now a museum, and was to inspect an air force base at Tula.

Mr. Yeltsin was last in the region in last August, when he inspected divisions of guards charged with defending Mos-

cow. That visit came three weeks before he dissolved the old parliament in Moscow, which triggered a conservative rebellion crushed by the army on Oct. 4.

President Yeltsin said Monday that a Communist-fascist alliance still posed a threat to Russia's fledgling democracy but pledged not to ban mainstream Communists from the December elections.

"For as long as Bolshevism or fascism are alive, there will exist a danger of a violent seizure of power," Mr. Yeltsin told the newspaper Izvestia.

"In Russia, to underestimate the Communist-fascist threat is simply senseless," he said, arguing that communism had burrowed itself into the consciousness of large sections of the population.

Determined U.K. presses N. Ireland peace plan

LONDON (R) — Britain signalled Tuesday it would override objections by hardline pro-British Protestants in Northern Ireland to its offer to bring the IRA into new peace talks if the gunmen laid down their arms.

In a series of television and radio interviews, Northern Ireland Secretary Sir Patrick Mayhew firmly denied that Britain had already held secret talks with Sinn Fein, the political wing of the outlawed Irish Republican Army (IRA).

"There have not been talks on behalf of the British government with Sinn Fein," Sir Patrick said. "Nobody has conducted talks with Sinn Fein or any other... organisation that supports violence."

Sinn Fein President Gerry Adams said Monday the government of Prime Minister John Major had broken off the secret talks to appease Protestant parties that hold key votes in the British parliament.

Mr. Adams was responding to an explicit offer by Mr. Major to include Sinn Fein in peace talks if it ceased its violent, 25-year campaign to end British rule in Northern Ireland.

After more than 20 people died in the worst month's bloodshed in 17 years in the province, Mr. Major said he was determined to pursue a settlement that has eluded his predecessors.

Mr. Adams rejected the offer, as did fiery Protestant preacher Ian Paisley, leader of the Democratic Unionist Party. "We will not sit down at that table (with the IRA) ever," Rev. Paisley said.

Another Democratic Unionist, Peter Robinson, dismissed Mr. Major's gambit Tuesday as "contemptible", prompting a stinging reaction from Sir Patrick. "That is such a good example of the extreme language and the inflammatory language that is the bane of political progress in northern Ireland," he retorted.

Sir Patrick said there was a growing revulsion against such talk in Northern Ireland, whose people were sick of the

sectarian violence that had cost more than 3,000 lives.

Sir Patrick repeated Mr. Major's insistence that the IRA could not enter peace talks until it had proved it had given up violence.

Sufficient time would have to pass, but Sir Patrick said talks could not be ruled out forever. After all, Germany and Japan were Britain's enemies in World War II but were now allies.

"You cannot simply go ahead and say 'I'm afraid that no matter how many years go by we're not going to talk with those who represent a party that at one time justified violence.'"

Sir Patrick said it was not solely up to Britain — which is working with the Irish government to relaunch peace talks that collapsed a year ago — to decide who should have a seat at the negotiating table.

In a message aimed at Rev. Paisley, Sir Patrick added: "I think it would not be seen to be measuring up to the level of events and the demands of the hour in Northern Ireland if a veto were able to be exercised over the resumption of that process by a single politician or even a single party."

Irish Deputy Prime Minister Dick Spring welcomed Mr. Major's comments as providing "a solid foundation to work on."

"It was an important speech. I welcome in particular the recognition that the opportunity exists now to build a peace process," Mr. Spring said in Washington, where he was briefing U.S. politicians and officials on developments in Northern Ireland.

John Smith, the leader of Britain's opposition Labour Party, said Mr. Major was right to insist that the IRA lay down arms before including Sinn Fein in peace talks and that Rev. Paisley's Democratic Unionists should not be allowed to block negotiations.

He said Mr. Major should tell all Northern Ireland parties that they had a "moral obligation" to take part in the peace process.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Polls: Clinton approval at 49%

WASHINGTON (R) — A new public opinion poll has found President Bill Clinton's approval rating slipping below 50 per cent for the first time since August. The ABC-Washington Post poll gave Mr. Clinton a 49 per cent approval rating, down three points from a similar survey taken two weeks before. Forty-five per cent of those surveyed said they disapproved of the way Mr. Clinton was doing his job. The telephone poll of 1,218 Americans had a 3 per cent margin of error. Asked about Mr. Clinton's handling of the economy, 43 per cent said they approved while 50 per cent disapproved. On foreign policy, only 39 per cent approved while 53 per cent disapproved. The poll found that support for Mr. Clinton's health care reform programme was slipping. Forty-six per cent said they approved of the plan and 43 per cent said they disapproved. Asked whether Congress should pass Mr. Clinton's health legislation, six per cent said it should pass without changes, 42 per cent said it should pass with minor changes and 29 per cent said it should pass with major changes. Only 17 per cent said the Congress should not pass any of the reform.

Russia releases pictures of jet downing

WASHINGTON (R) — Russia has given the United States pictures of the downing of an U.S. C-130 aircraft by Soviet jets in 1958, former U.S. ambassador to Moscow Malcolm Toon said Monday. Mr. Toon is a member of the U.S.-Russia Joint Commission on POW/MIA's. He said he and other U.S. members of the commission were given the pictures at a meeting in Moscow this September. The pictures, released by the Pentagon Monday night, show four Soviet MiG-17 jets shooting down the C-130 over Armenia on Sept. 2, 1958, and also show wreckage of the plane on the ground after it crashed and burned. The C-130 had a crew of 17. There were no known survivors. Mr. Toon said he and other commission members visited the crash site in Armenia. He said six sets of remains had been found and were returned to the United States and five have been identified so far. Mr. Toon said the Russians have been extremely cooperative in trying to provide information about Americans missing in the cold war, the Korean War and the Vietnam War.

Sri Lankan rebels pound army camp

COLOMBO (AFP) — Tamil Tiger guerrillas Tuesday shelled a military camp recaptured by security forces after a battle that left over 1,000 people dead, security sources said. The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) used a 120-mm artillery gun on the Pooneryn army camp from where they captured the heavy weapon during a three-day battle last week, the sources said. "Several soldiers manning bunkers at Pooneryn were injured. But the shells did not cause much damage because of the sandy terrain," the source said. Meanwhile, the air force kept bombing suspected LTTE targets in the rebel-held northern Jaffna peninsula and the northern part of mainland Sri Lanka where Tigers are known to have bases. Tamil sources said an aircraft hit a hospital in the northern Kilinochchi region Monday, killing three mothers and their new born babies.

Human rights must accompany development — Asia Watch

SEATTLE (R) — The human rights group Asia Watch said Wednesday that countries had to protect human rights at the same time as they developed their economies or else they risked alienating their citizens.

In a report issued to coincide with the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit meeting in Seattle, the group rejected the idea that economic development would necessarily cause political liberalisation.

"It would be a major mistake to accept the argument that economic development would inevitably lead to positive political change," Mike Jendryczek, Washington director of Human Rights Watch/Asia Watch, said in a statement.

"It may be true that some time in the distant future, economic reform in China, Indonesia and Vietnam will lead to greater freedom, but it doesn't help the thousands of people in prison now."

The report, "human rights in the APEC region", argued that economic development

sometimes, as in the case of China, brought about further repression.

In China, "continued commitment to economic reform was accompanied by increased political repression, as China's leaders expressed a determination not to let the reforms affect (Communist) Party control, and any signs of dissent were quickly crushed," it said.

China's human rights record will be an issue when President Bill Clinton meets China's head of state, Jiang Zemin, during the APEC summit.

The Asia Watch report analysed the human rights situation in most of the dynamic APEC economies and in several Asian countries, like Vietnam and Burma, that are not members of the organisation.

It had harsh words for many, including the United States.

It said the United States' policy on Haitian boat people violated the international covenant on civil and political rights, which Washington adopted last year.

It said U.S. prison condi-

tions also violated the pact, "which provides that prisoners be treated with humanity and dignity."

Burma — not a member of the APEC group — "continued to be a human rights pariah", Asia Watch said.

The group said China "continued to arrest, detain and torture peaceful critics and to interfere with the freedom of expression, assembly and religion."

Indonesia, despite some signs of increasing receptivity to human rights concerns, continued to detain critics arbitrarily, restrict freedom of expression, and obstruct the emergence of independent associations," it said.

The group said the United States had been slow to recognise Japan's potential to promote human rights.

It said Korea had made no effort to repeal or revise the national security law which restricted the rights of freedom of expression and association.

The group noted that Malaysia championed an

"Asian concept of human rights" which rejected the Western idea that individual rights were key.

It also mentioned human rights problems in Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam, which is not an APEC nation.

China and the United States are likely to strike deals during this week's Asia trade conference that will let each side claim success, U.S. and Chinese sources said Monday.

President Clinton's meeting with Chinese head of state Jiang Zemin here may resolve two key points of friction, the sources said.

The issues are sanctions imposed on Beijing for alleged missile sales and China's blocking of U.S. investigations into exports of Chinese prison-made goods, the sources said.

Concerned that a new U.S. effort to improve relations may give Beijing a mixed message, however, more than 200 members of Congress have signed a letter to Clinton emphasising that China's human rights situation must be improved, they said.

The sources include human rights advocates who were briefed by U.S. administration officials and Chinese familiar with government thinking.

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Turkmenistan wins 1st ever gold medal for weightlifting

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Rabin won't 'fall off chair' if deadline missed

TEL AVIV (R) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said Tuesday he would not be surprised if Israeli and Palestinian negotiators failed to meet next month's deadline for the start of an Israeli troop withdrawal. "I won't fall off the chair if it will go on for another month and we'll reach an agreement," he told army radio in Washington, where he was on an official visit. In Cairo on Tuesday, Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) began a second straight day of talks about the withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho due to begin on Dec. 13. A Palestinian source reported slow but steady progress. Mr. Rabin said Israel was committed to its Sept. 13 peace deal giving Palestinians limited self-rule in the Israeli-occupied territories, despite efforts by opponents on both sides to torpedo the agreement.

Russian cargo plane crashes in Iran

NICOSIA (AP) — Iranian search helicopters Tuesday located the wreckage of a Russian-built cargo jet that crashed into mountains near the southern city of Kerman, the Islamic Republic News Agency reported. The fate of the 17 crew members was unknown, according to the IRNA dispatch, which was monitored in Nicosia. It said two helicopters were scouring the area around crash site in the Joupur Heights, about 800 kilometres south of Tehran, in search of the black box. The Russian-built Antonov AN-124 was flying to Tashkent, capital of the former Soviet republic of Uzbekistan, when it lost radar contact and crashed Monday evening, IRNA said. The IRNA reports did not give the cause of the crash, but said the aircraft had received clearance for an emergency landing at Kerman airport, about 35 kilometres to the west.

Chinese ambassador clocks 195 kph

TEL AVIV (AP) — A Chinese diplomat was caught speeding along a desert road at 195 kilometres per hour, but police let him go after he claimed diplomatic immunity, reports said Tuesday. The car of Zhu Yinglu, China's ambassador to Egypt, ran a police roadblock and then led police on a high-speed chase over a stretch of 50 kilometres Monday after being clocked at 195 kph, said the Yediot Ahronoth and Maariv dailies. Just outside the Red Sea resort of Eilat, police set up a second roadblock and officers with drawn weapons finally stopped Mr. Zhu's chauffeur-driven Mercedes, the dailies said. The diplomat's car had an Arabic licence plate and police at first suspected the occupants were guerrillas. "We don't drive like this here," Eilat police chief Amos Bar reportedly admonished the diplomat. "I'm in a hurry, don't delay me. I have a diplomatic passport," Mr. Zhu answered. The speed limit in Israel is 90 kph.

Waite: Being a political pawn was worst ordeal

BOSTON (AP) — Terry Waite says the hardest torture to endure during his four years as a hostage in Beirut was being treated as a political symbol rather than a human being. Having to remember that mistreatment was the most difficult part of writing his new memoirs, "Taken On Trust," he said Monday. "The whole injustice of being caught up in a situation where people are treated as objects and not as people — it's not easy to record that," he said. The 54-year-old Church of England envoy signed copies of his book Monday afternoon at a downtown book store. Mr. Waite, an aide to Archbishop of Canterbury Robert Runcie, became a hostage himself after negotiating to win the release of British citizens, held captive in Iran and Libya. He was captured by the Islamic Jihad in 1987 on his second trip to Beirut. Mr. Waite spent most of his 1,763 days in captivity in solitary confinement, where he was chained, beaten and threatened with execution. Today, Mr. Waite is a fellow at Trinity College in Cambridge, England, where he is working on a sequel to "Taken On Trust." He also said he keeps close touch with some of his fellow former hostages, including Terry Anderson, former chief Middle Eastern correspondent of the Associated Press. "We don't have a club, you know. We don't have an old school tie. But we do keep in touch with each other," he said.

Aqazadeh in India to discuss gas pipeline

NICOSIA (R) — Iran's Oil Minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh has begun talks with Indian officials in New Delhi on plans for a gas pipeline between the two countries, the official Iranian news agency said. "A delegation led by... Aqazadeh started deliberations Monday... on New Delhi's request for a pipeline from the Qeshm Islands in the Persian Gulf," IRNA reported late Monday. It said Petroleum Secretary T.N.R. Rao was leading the Indian side in talks over the multi-billion dollar project, which is competing with a planned undersea pipeline from Oman. IRNA did not say how long Mr. Aqazadeh would stay in India. Iran has 20 trillion cubic metres of natural gas — the world's second largest reserves after Russia — but until now has focused on oil as a source of energy and revenue. Oman, which has gas reserves of 600 billion cubic metres, has already signed an understanding with India for laying an undersea pipeline, IRNA said. But the agency added, without giving figures, that the cost of laying a pipeline from Iran would be cheaper than from Oman.

Israelis vote in second round of local polls

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Voters went to the polls Tuesday in a second round run-off in elections for mayor of 26 towns in Israel, officials said. Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's Labour Party which lost control of occupied Jerusalem in the first round on Nov. 2 and failed to wrest control of Tel Aviv to the right is also in danger in Acre. Labour's incumbent mayor of the northern town Eli de Castro faces a strong challenge from a right-wing Likud candidate who has support from orthodox Jewish religious parties. Safed in Galilee and the Mediterranean coastal strip cities of Rehovot and Hadera are also up for grabs. The run-off is held where no candidate secure 40 per cent of the ballot first time out. On 36 per cent of the electorate bothered to vote on Nov. 2.

Saudi criticises Iran over island row

RIYADH (R) — Saudi Arabia criticised Iran Tuesday for saying it wanted better ties with Gulf Arab states but at the same time failing to resolve a dispute with the United Arab Emirates over three strategic islands. "At the time we hear from our neighbour Iran the desire to lay bridges of understanding with the region's countries, there are issues that do not conform or show that desire... We notice with great sorrow the continuation of the crisis between it and the UAE over the islands," Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal said. Prince Faisal was addressing the opening session of a meeting in Riyadh of Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) foreign ministers. Iran has recently said that Prince Faisal and his Iranian counterpart Ali Akbar Velayati were trying to arrange for a summit meeting between Saudi King and Iranian President Hashemi Akbar Rafsanjani. Prince Faisal hoped that Iran would "abolish measures on Abu Musa and work to solve the issue through dialogue, international law and international legitimacy."

Bomb defendant competent after suicide bid

NEW YORK (R) — A defendant in the World Trade Centre bombing case, who attempted to commit suicide last week, appeared pale and weak Monday but his lawyer said he was still competent to stand trial. The defendant, Ahmad Ajaj, a thin, 27-year-old Palestinian, is also continuing the second week of a hunger strike to protest conditions at the federal prison where he is being held, said his lawyer Austin Campiello. Mr. Campiello said an official at the Metropolitan Correctional Centre in New York told him Friday that Mr. Ajaj had tried killing himself with a razor late Thursday. Prior to the beginning of Monday's trial, U.S. District Judge Kevin Duffy asked Mr. Campiello about Mr. Ajaj's condition. "I told him he was competent to proceed," Mr. Campiello told reporters.



LATEST VICTIM: Palestinians bury in a Palestinian flag fellow student Ezzat Ghazawi, 15, who was shot dead by Israeli soldiers during a stone throwing incident in the Al Hasbaniyeh high school of Al Birah Tuesday. Palestinians and seven Israelis were reported killed since the Israel-PLO agreement Sept. 13 (AFP photo)

Peres asks Juppe to set up Assad-Rabin summit talks

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israel has asked the French to help arrange a summit between Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Syrian President Hafez Al Assad in order to break the deadlock in the peace talks, Israel Radio reported Tuesday.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres spoke Monday by phone with his French counterpart, Alain Juppe, who was scheduled to visit Syria on Wednesday, the report said. Mr. Peres asked Mr. Juppe to try and arrange a Rabin-Assad summit, and to tell the Syrian president that a majority of Israelis back the peace talks with Syria, the radio said.

The Israeli foreign ministry said it was checking the report. Mr. Rabin has said he first wanted to implement the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) accord on Palestinian autonomy, and then move on the Syrian track. But he told Israel Radio in remarks broadcast Tuesday that "if opportunities open up with another Arab state or states, there is no reason that we should miss these opportunities."

Syrian Vice President Abdul Halim Khaddam said Tuesday there had been no secret talks between Israel and Syria and that the two countries were unlikely to reach a peace agreement by the end of the year.

Mr. Khaddam, in an interview with Radio Monte Carlo, said Syria continues to demand a complete Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories, including Syria's Golan Heights, as a precondition to a comprehensive peace settlement.

"Israel continues to seek separate agreements and exploit opportunities, in order to impose more conditions and achieve more gains. Arab cooperation so far has not been up to a level that would serve Arab interests," he said.

He said the Israel-PLO agreement that grants Palestinians limited self-rule in the Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho had heightened Syrian suspicions.

Four Israeli fighter-bombers fired eight missiles into Hizbollah anti-aircraft batteries and broadcasting outlets in the Bekaa Valley, police said.

A shepherd was rushed to a nearby hospital where he died of his wounds, hospital officials said.

It was the fiercest wave of attacks in South Lebanon since the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Israel signed a peace pact in September.

Hizbollah and hardline Palestinian groups have vowed to step up attacks in the south in order to wreck the PLO-Israel pact.

Israel blamed Syria for the latest offensive.

Deputy Defence Minister Mordechai Gur said the operation was a sign of what he

called Syria's displeasure at not being the main focus on Arab-Israeli peace efforts.

"The scope of the operation and its timing leave no doubt in my mind that they (the Syrians) are behind it," Mr. Gur told Israel Radio.

"It is an expression of their discomfort over the fact that relations between the president of the United States and prime minister of Israel are strong and (Syria) is outside the loop."

None of Syria's 40,000 troops in Lebanon are deployed in the area of South Lebanon where Tuesday's violence occurred.

The violence came hard on the heels of a visit Hizbollah leader Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah made to Tehran, where Iranian leaders pledged solidarity with the movement.

Foreign Ministry reshuffled

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Al Hassan Tuesday reshuffled the Ministry's senior officials.

Shaher Bak was named director of the political department and will supervise the economic and cultural departments.

Ibrahim Naghawi was named director of the consular and expatriate affairs departments, while Nabil Al Talhouni was appointed director of the international organisation and conferences department.

Nabil Shukun was appointed director of the studies and research department.

Ahmad Al Hasanat was named assistant secretary general for administrative and financial affairs and director of the administrative department.

Dr. Mohammed Shahenri was appointed coordinator for negotiations and director of the internal audit office, and Ahmad Muhaydeen was appointed director of the information department.

Mohammad Tawfiq Ahmad was appointed director of the legal department, and Samir Masarweh was appointed director of the protocol department.

Juma'a Abadi was appointed director of the ministry's office, and Saleem Al Rujoob was appointed director of the finance department.

Fawwaz Al Bashir was appointed director of the technical office.

These transfers took immediate effect.

Hizbollah seizes 12 SLA men

MARJAYOUN, Lebanon (Agencies) — Resistance forces launched a wave of attacks on military positions in Israel's South Lebanon "security zone" on Tuesday, storming one post and capturing 12 pro-Israeli militiamen, security sources said.

Hizbollah (Party of God) fighters also fired a volley of Katyusha rockets into the border zone and Israeli sources said two Israeli soldiers were slightly wounded on the border.

Guerrillas firing anti-tank missiles, mortars and machineguns struck at sunrise at two Israeli outposts and six posts of the allied South Lebanon Army (SLA), security sources said.

A Hizbollah guerrilla was killed while another was wounded, as were two SLA

men, they said.

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Deputy Defence Minister Mordechai Gur said the operation was a sign of what he

Iraqis cross border, plant flag in Kuwait

KUWAIT (R) — Hundreds of Iraqis planted the Iraqi flag on Kuwait territory on Tuesday to protest against a border security trench being dug by the emirate, the United Nations said.

About 250 Iraqis threw stones during the two-hour demonstration to chase away workers digging the trench which they said had been built on Iraqi farms without warning.

Kuwait later reported Iraqi troops had shot at a Kuwaiti border post. The United Nations declined to comment on the charge.

"With Iraqi flags in their hands the Iraqi demonstrators headed for one farm which was divided on Monday into two parts, one in Kuwait and one in Iraq, by the Kuwaiti trench, and chased the contractors away by throwing stones at them," the U.N. Iraq-Kuwait Observer Mission (UNIKOM) said in a statement.

"Also they planted the Iraqi flag on the berm (wall) which was located 20 metres south of the trench on the Kuwaiti side," said the statement telephoned to Reuters by UNIKOM spokesman Abdul Latif Kabbaj. He declined to say how many flags had been planted.

Kuwaiti Interior Minister Sheikh Ahmad Hamoud Al Sabah denounced the border crossing as flagrant aggression. He said the Iraqis had numbered 350 and some had carried light weapons.

Diplomats said the Iraqis had been accompanied by a group of reporters. One envoy described the Iraqis as "rent-a-crowd."

The incursion was the second border confrontation in a month between Kuwait and its former occupier. It happened two days before the U.N. Security Council holds a regular 60-day review of economic sanctions imposed on Baghdad for its August 1990 conquest of the emirate.

Kuwait said the U.N. should maintain sanctions because Iraq had kept up its territorial claim and continued to hold up to 600 Kuwaitis detained during its seven-month occupation.

"Otherwise, Iraqi objectives

will continue to pose a threat to security and peace in the region," Kuwait's ambassador to the U.N. Mohammad Abul Hassan said in a statement issued here.

Iraq denies it holds any Kuwaitis.

Kuwaiti statements also said Iraqi troops had shot at the emirate's Al Mazara border post in the same sector of the border where the demonstration against the trench had occurred.

Mr. Kabbaj declined to comment on the report.

He said the Iraqis were unarmed. They had turned up at the Al Abdali area in 100 cars and three buses.

"The Iraqi liaison officer to UNIKOM who was at that scene stated (to UNIKOM) that this was a peaceful demonstration by the Iraqi farmers who were angry about the digging operations through their farms without any warning."

"He added that they had been led to understand that the trench would only be dug through their farms once the issue of compensation had been resolved by the U.N. headquarters in New York," Mr. Kabbaj added.

"The entire incident was closely monitored by U.N. military observers who pointed out to them (the Iraqis) that UNIKOM considers this actions as a violation."

At the U.N., Iraq and U.N. officials Monday began setting an agenda for two weeks of arms talks that Baghdad hopes will pave the way to lifting three years of sanctions that have cut off its vital oil exports.

The Iraqi delegation paid a courtesy call to Rolf Ekeus, head of the U.N. special commission in charge of dismantling Iraq's weapons of mass destruction. A spokesman said talks Tuesday would begin with data on chemical weapons.

For the special commission progress must also include agreement to begin a long-term monitoring programme.

The Iraqi team is headed by General Amir Mohammad Rashid, director of Baghdad's Military-Industrial Authority, who led a similar mission to New York in September.

'Democracy irreversible reality'

(Continued from page 1)

threat. But I think that the threat is within us. If you don't know what is happening in your own country — via democracy — if you don't know what people feel, that brings with it fear — and danger," the King said.

Speaking of threats, he dismissed Western ideas that the Muslim Brotherhood had really represented such a thing in Jordan. The West tended to "look at things with insufficient depth." Here in Jordan "we never felt we had a problem. Because all is out in the open."

Besides, the Muslim Brotherhood had, like all the other parties, subscribed to Jordan's National Charter,

that key document in the democratisation process, he pointed out.

"A sense of Jordanian nationalism has grown up, an attachment to this country by all its people regardless of their origin." It was all part of "a collapse of many of the structures of the region," of a learning "from the experience that all of us (Arab and Jordanian) have gone through," the King said.

He hoped that Jordan would be a model for all, "radiating thoughts and ideas."

"But I don't want to be offensive to anyone. I am not forcing a model on anyone. I just want to prove that democracy can work, and that if it does it is a better system than any other," the King said.

Elections and Parliament make-up

(Continued from page 1)

mad Al Haj and Theib Anis (Zarqa); Theifallah Momani (Ajloun); and Abdullah Akaleh (Tafilah). The two IAF members who ran independently are Theeb Abdallah Khattah (Amman First District, and Abdul Majid Al Aqash (Amman Sixth District).

Only three independent Islamists won: Abdul Razzaq Tubeishat (Irbid); Abdul Baqi Gammo (Zarqa); and Jamal Sarairoh (Karak).

The Jordanian National Alliance Party (JNA) led by Mihjem Khreishah has four deputies: Samih Al Farah (Amman Sixth District); Jamal Khreishah (Central Bedouins); Mohammad Njadat (Southern Bedouins); and Nawaf Al Qadi (Northern Bedouins).

Although Al Ahd secretary general Abdul Hadi Majali declined in a press conference held earlier this week to name the party members who ran independently and won seats, the following are believed to be members of the centrist party: Mifleh Ruheish (Jerash); Ahmad Qudah (Ajloun); Rateh Sa'oud (Tafilah); Abdul Hadi Al Majali (Karak); and Hani Hijazin (Karak).

Senator Akel Al Fayez's party, Al Watan, believed to have two deputies: Mohammad Ahmad Thoubeh (Amman Second District) and Fayyad Jarrah (Zarqa).

Al Yakatha party led by

Irbid Deputy Abdul Raouf Rawabdeh, has two deputies, Ibrahim Zoubi (Ramtha) and Mr. Rawabdeh himself.

Five other parties have one deputy each at the new House: Khalil Haddadin (Amman Third District) of the Jordanian Baath Arab Socialist Party; Hammad Abu Jamous (Amman First District) of Al Mustakbal party; Bassam Haddadin (Zarqa) of the Jordanian People's Democratic Party (Hashd); Samir Hashashneh (Karak) of the Jordanian Arab Democratic Party; and Mustafa Sheikhat (Balqa) of the Jordanian Progressive Democratic Party.

The 12th Parliament also includes 18 former ministers, they are: Ibrahim Kilani, Ali A. al Ragheb, Aref Bataineh, Taher Masri (also former prime minister), Abdul Raouf Rawabdeh, Saleh Irbidat, Abdul Razzaq Tubeishat, Abdullah Ensour, Samir Kassar, Jamal Sarairoh, Awad Khleifat, Abdul Karim Kahariti, Abdul Baqi Gammo, Abdul Karim Dughmi, Abdullah Akaleh, Saad Sour, Jamal Khreishah and Mohammad Adoub Zaban.

It includes seven retired army generals, they are: Khaled Ajarmeh, Jamal Khreishah, Aref Bataineh, Talal Obaidat, Abdul Hadi Al Majali, Saleem Zawaideh and Mohammad Njadat.

Out of the 64 former deputies of the 11th Parliament who sought reelection only 27 won.

COLUMN

Jackson to get drug treatment for 8 weeks

LOS ANGELES (R) — Pop superstar Michael Jackson will remain in a drug clinic for the next six to eight weeks for treatment of his addiction to painkillers, his lawyer said. Lawyer Bert Fields said Jackson was "barely able to function adequately on an intellectual level" and that the singer's life "was in danger had he continued to take these massive quantities of drugs." But Mr. Fields refused to say where Jackson was being treated, apart from saying he was not in the United States. The singer was reported to be in the chic French Alps ski resort of Avoriaz, but a hotel manager there said Jackson had left Monday before the media could track him down. The media hunt for Jackson has led to the French Alps, but the pop superstar, who faces charges of child molestation back home in California, is staying hidden. "He was in our hotel," Albiu Marcheseau told reporters. "But he is no longer there. We have other hotels in France."

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